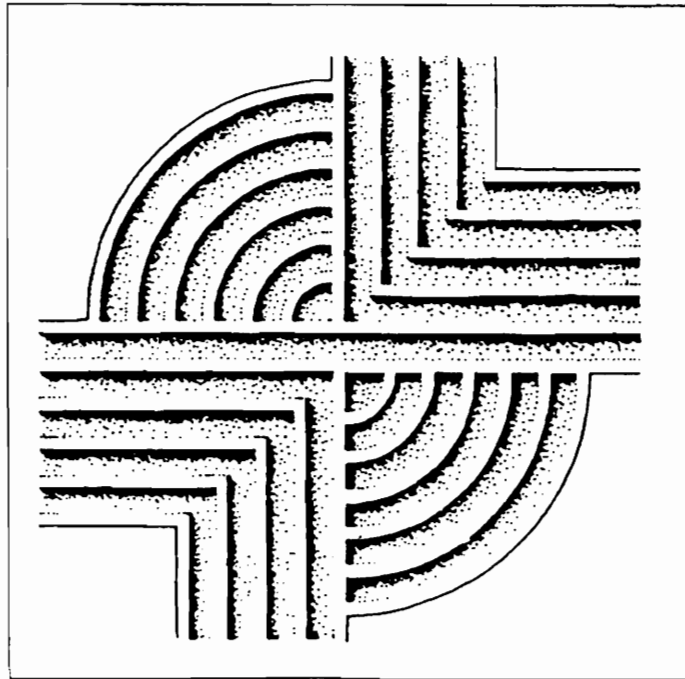


**INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SURVEY OF THE CENTEX HOMES PROPERTY,  
STRATTON PLACE, CHARLESTON COUNTY  
SOUTH CAROLINA**



**INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE  
CENTEX HOMES PROPERTY, STRATTON PLACE,  
CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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**CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 188**

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## ABSTRACT

This study was conducted at the request of Mr. Jay Thrower, ASLA for Centex Homes of Charleston, South Carolina. The study tract consists of the northern two-thirds of the property commonly known as Stratton Place, and is situated in northern Charleston County, immediately adjacent to U.S. 17 N and the Charleston National Golf Course.

The study included an intensive archaeological survey of the 99 acre tract, as well as background research which included historical examination of resources at the Charleston Register of Mesne Conveyances and the South Carolina Historical Society, examination of the site files at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, and a request for information from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

As a result of these investigations three previously unrecorded sites, 38CH1622, 38CH1623, and 38CH1624, were identified on or adjacent to the study tract. In addition, one previously recorded archaeological site, 38CH927, was found to extend onto the Centex Homes property.

Archaeological site **38CH1622**, which represents a probable tenant structure dating from the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century, is recommended by this study to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Additional historical documentation and oral history, coupled with data recovery excavations are recommended should the site not be suitable for green spacing or preservation in place.

Archaeological site **38CH1623**, which represents a small and ephemeral prehistoric scatter probably dating to the Middle Woodland period (ca. A.D. 1000), is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No further research or documentation is recommended for this particular

site, pending the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office.

Archaeological site **38CH1624** represents a second small and ephemeral prehistoric scatter probably dating to the Middle Woodland period (ca. A.D. 1000). This site appears to be confined entirely on the adjacent Charleston National property, but it may be impacted by the Centex Homes project. The site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. No further research or documentation is recommended for this particular site, pending the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office.

The final site identified on the Centex property, was previously recorded as **38CH927** during the 1987 survey of the adjacent Charleston National Golf Course. At that time the site, thought to represent a plantation settlement, was recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register. It was also thought to extend further east, off the Charleston National property and onto the current survey tract. While we have not been able to determine the disposition of this site by the State Historic Preservation Office, it appears that the site was partially green spaced. A substantial portion of the site was found to occur on the Centex tract. This report recommends the site as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If green spacing is not possible, then data recovery excavations are recommended, pending the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Office.

As always, it is possible that additional, but unidentified, resources may exist on the survey tract. Consequently, Centex Homes is cautioned that if any archaeological or historical remains are identified during construction, all work should immediately cease and the identified remains should be reported to either Chicora Foundation or the State Historic Preservation Office.



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# INTRODUCTION

## **Background**

This investigation was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Jay Thrower, ASLA, the Land Development Manager for Centex Homes of Charleston, South Carolina. Centex Homes is currently anticipating the development of approximately 99 acres of the 192 acre Stratton Place tract (currently owned by John L. Porcher and Stratton Place, LP) in Charleston County, South Carolina (Figure 1).

The development's preliminary plans involve commercial development along the U.S. 17 frontage and single family residential development on the interior. Several wetland or pond areas will be created or improved. The proposed undertaking will involve clearing and grubbing for roads and utility rights-of-way, as well as the clearing for the construction of either businesses or homes. Some additional clearing, mucking, and soil movement will likely take place as a result of the proposed wetland and pond creation. This parcel is bounded to the west by Charleston National Golf Course and Development, to the south by a powerline easement, to the north by U.S. 17 North, and to the east by a property line which separates the tract from other development.

This work will clearly have the potential to impact any archaeological sites which might be present in the project area. Consequently, Chicora Foundation was retained to conduct this intensive archaeological survey to allow the developer to obtain S.C. Coastal Council certification. This study is intended to provide an overview of the archival research and the archaeological survey of the tract sufficient to allow the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office to determine the eligibility of sites for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, this study will provide a detailed explanation of the archaeological survey of the parcel, and the findings. The statewide

archaeological site files held by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) were examined for information pertinent to the project area. Several previously recorded archaeological sites in the immediate area were identified and will be discussed in a subsequent section. In addition, the background research at SCIAA identified at least one additional site in the project area which had never been assigned a statewide site number. Chicora Foundation initiated contact with the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concerning any National Register buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the project area, as well as the results of any structures surveys on file with that office on March 11. No response has yet been received from that office and, given the time constraints of this project, this study has been completed absent that information from the S.C. SHPO.

The archaeological survey was conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley on March 19 and 20, 1995. Field work conditions were good and the work was aided by Centex Homes having established a series of survey lines through the property. A total of 18 person hours were devoted to the study. Additional historical research was conducted on March 21. The sites were recorded at SCIAA on March 25 and the laboratory process of the collections was conducted at the Chicora Foundation laboratories on March 26. The report was prepared on March 25 and 26, 1996.

## **Goals**

The primary goals of this study were, first, to identify the archaeological resources of the tract and, second, to assess the ability of these sites to contribute significant archaeological, historical or anthropological data. The second aspect essentially involves the sites' eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, although

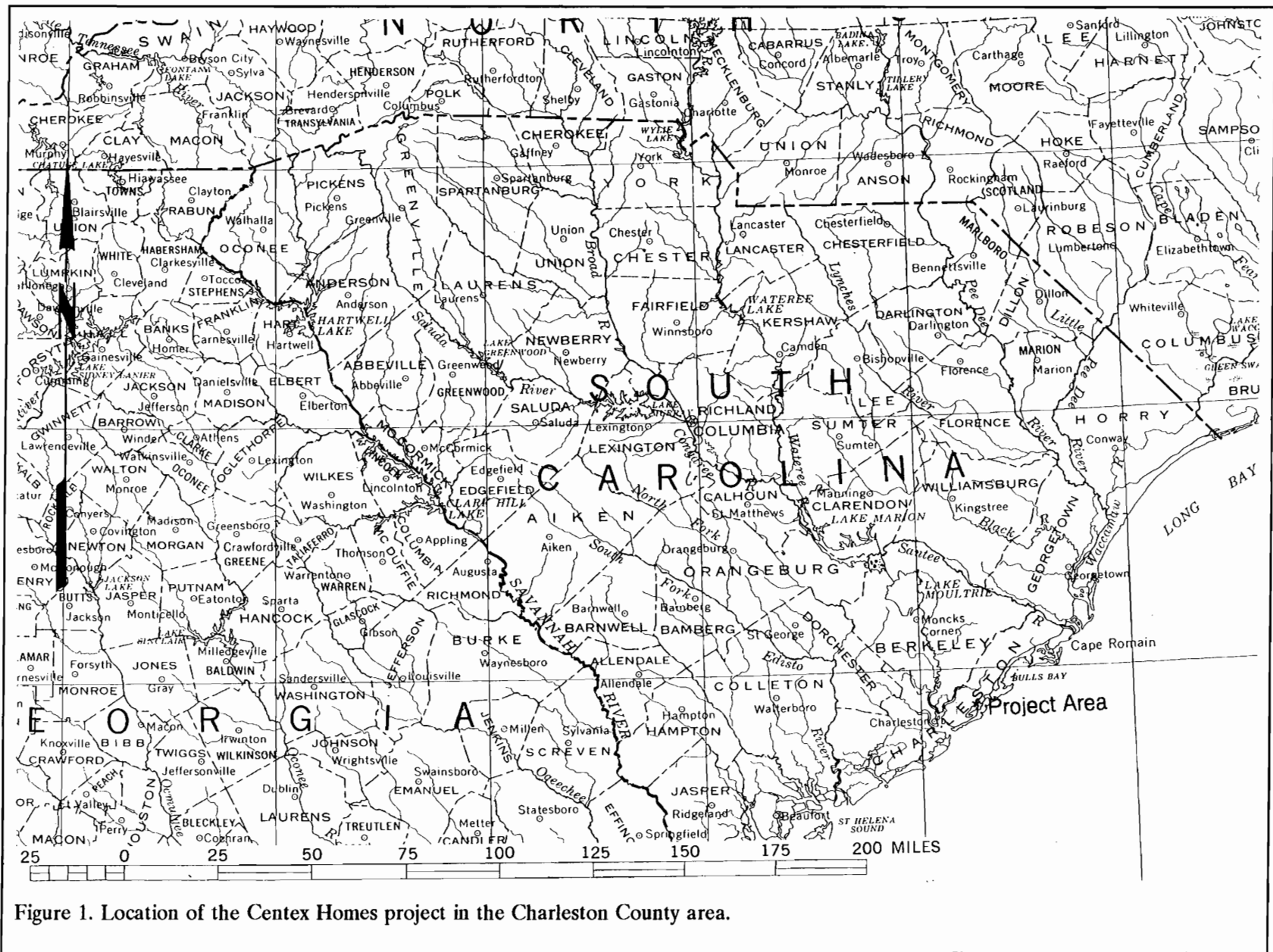


Figure 1. Location of the Centex Homes project in the Charleston County area.



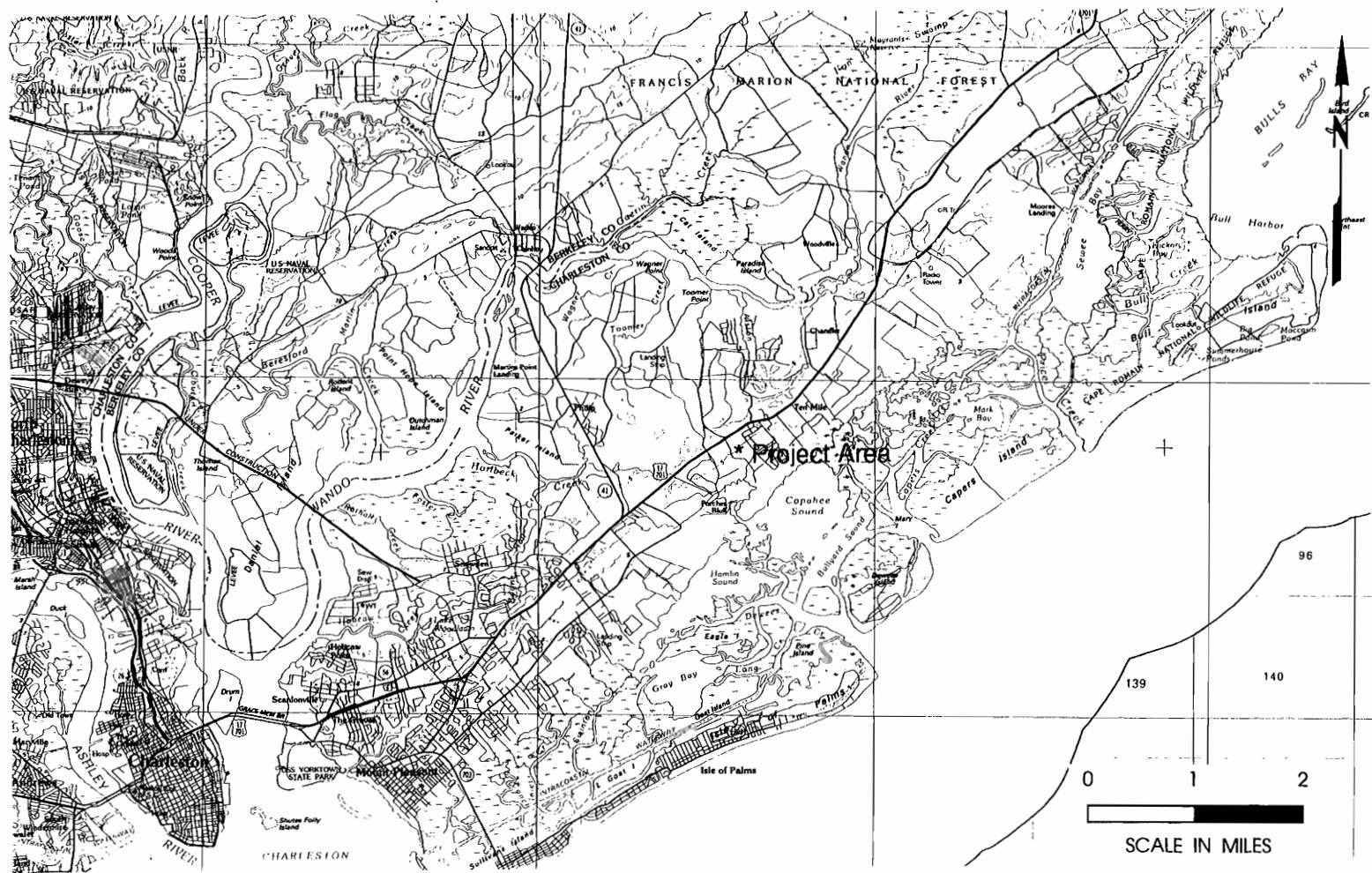


Figure 2. Vicinity of the Centex Homes survey of Stratton Place in northern Charleston County.

Chicora Foundation only provides an opinion of National Register eligibility and the final determination is made by the lead compliance agency in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

The secondary goals were to examine the relationship between site location, soil type, and topography, expanding the previous work by Brooks and Scurry (1978) and Scurry and Brooks (1980) in the Charleston area.

Work at prehistoric sites in the area has revealed relatively small shell and nonshell middens found almost exclusively adjacent to tidal creeks or sloughs. Few sites have been found in the interior, away from both extant marsh habitats and relic sloughs. Most sites, based on previous studies, are found on excessive to moderately well drained soils, although a few are consistently found in areas which are poorly drained (which suggests that factors other than drainage may occasionally have determined aboriginal settlement location).

Research by South and Hartley (1980) suggests that major historic site complexes will be found on high ground adjacent to a deep water access. Plantation main houses tend to be located on the highest and best drained soils for both health and status reasons. Slave settlements tend to be located for easy access to the fields, although clearly other considerations were involved, and slave rows are often found on low, poorly drained soils. There is no question that documentary research will often provide better information on historic site locations than the currently available predictive models. In the case of the Centex Homes survey, previous research had suggested the location of the historic settlement associated with this tract.

As previously mentioned, several archaeological sites have been previously recorded for the general area. Although much of the tract was found to be situated on relatively poorly drained soils, there was a significant potential for the discovery of archaeological sites, at least in those areas with somewhat better drainage and closer proximity to water. Much of the tract, as will be discussed, was found to be poorly drained and to offer only limited potential for archaeological

sites.

### **Curation**

The field notes and artifacts from Chicora's survey of the Centex Homes portion of Stratton Place have been curated at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). The artifacts have been cleaned and/or conserved as necessary and have been curated using the SCIAA site numbers following that institution's provenience system. All original records and duplicate records were provided to the curatorial facility on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper. The only photographic materials present were a series of color prints intended for use in this survey. Since these materials cannot be processed to archival standards, they have been temporarily retained by Chicora Foundation, Inc.

## **EXTANT ENVIRONMENT**

### **Physiography**

Charleston County is located in the lower Atlantic Coastal Plain of South Carolina and is bounded to the east by the Atlantic Ocean and a series of marsh, barrier, and sea islands (Mathews et al. 1980:133). Elevations in the County range from sea level to about 70 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

In the project area elevations range from about 5 to 25 feet AMSL (Figure 3). In general, there are a series of sandy ridges between which there are lower, and wetter, troughs. Along the northern edge of the parcel, in the vicinity of U.S. 17 N, there is a sandy ridge with an elevation of about 25 feet AMSL. From there, to the south, the topography slopes down to 10 feet AMSL, where a marsh slough is still present. On the south side of this slough, the ground quickly slopes back up, attaining an elevation of about 15 feet AMSL prior to the southern boundary.

The mainland topography, which consists of similar subtle ridge and bay undulations, is characteristic of beach ridge plains. Seven major drainages are found in Charleston County. Four of these, the Wando, Ashley, Stono, and North Edisto, are dominated by tidal flows and are saline. The three with significant freshwater flow are the Santee, forming the northern boundary of the County, the South Edisto, forming the southern boundary, and the Cooper, which bisects the County. Because of the low topography, many broad, low-gradient interior drains are present as either extensions of the tidal rivers or as flooded bays and swales. Examples of these are present in the project area, and include the slough found near the southern boundary.

### **Geology and Soils**

Coastal Plain geological formations are unconsolidated sedimentary deposits of very recent

age (Pleistocene and Holocene) lying unconformably on ancient crystalline rocks (Cooke 1936; Miller 1971:74). The Pleistocene sediments are organized into topographically distinct, but lithologically similar, geomorphic units, or terraces, parallel to the coast. The project area is identified by Cooke (1936) as part of the Pamlico terrace, which includes the land between the recent shore and an abandoned shore line about 25 feet AMSL. Cooke (1936:7) notes that evidence of ancient beaches and swales can still be seen in the Pamlico formation and this likely contributed to the ridge and trough topography present in the project area.

Within the coastal zone the soils are Holocene and Pleistocene in age and were formed from materials that were deposited during the various stages of coastal submergence. The formation of soils in the study area is affected by this parent material (primarily sands and clays), the temperate climate, the various soil organisms, topography, and time.

The mainland soils are Pleistocene in age and tend to have more distinct horizon development and diversity than the younger soils of the sea and barrier islands. Sandy to loamy soils predominate in the level to gently sloping mainland areas. The island soils are less diverse and less well developed, frequently lacking a well-defined B horizon. Organic matter is low and the soils tend to be acidic. The Holocene deposits typical of barrier islands and found as a fringe on some sea islands, consist almost entirely of quartz sand which exhibits little organic matter. Tidal marsh soils are Holocene in age and consist of fine sands, clay, and organic matter deposited over older Pleistocene sands. The soils are frequently covered by up to 2 feet of saltwater during high tides. Historically, marsh soils have been used as compost or fertilizer for a variety of crops, including cotton (Hammond 1884:510) and Allston mentions that the sandy soil of the coastal region,

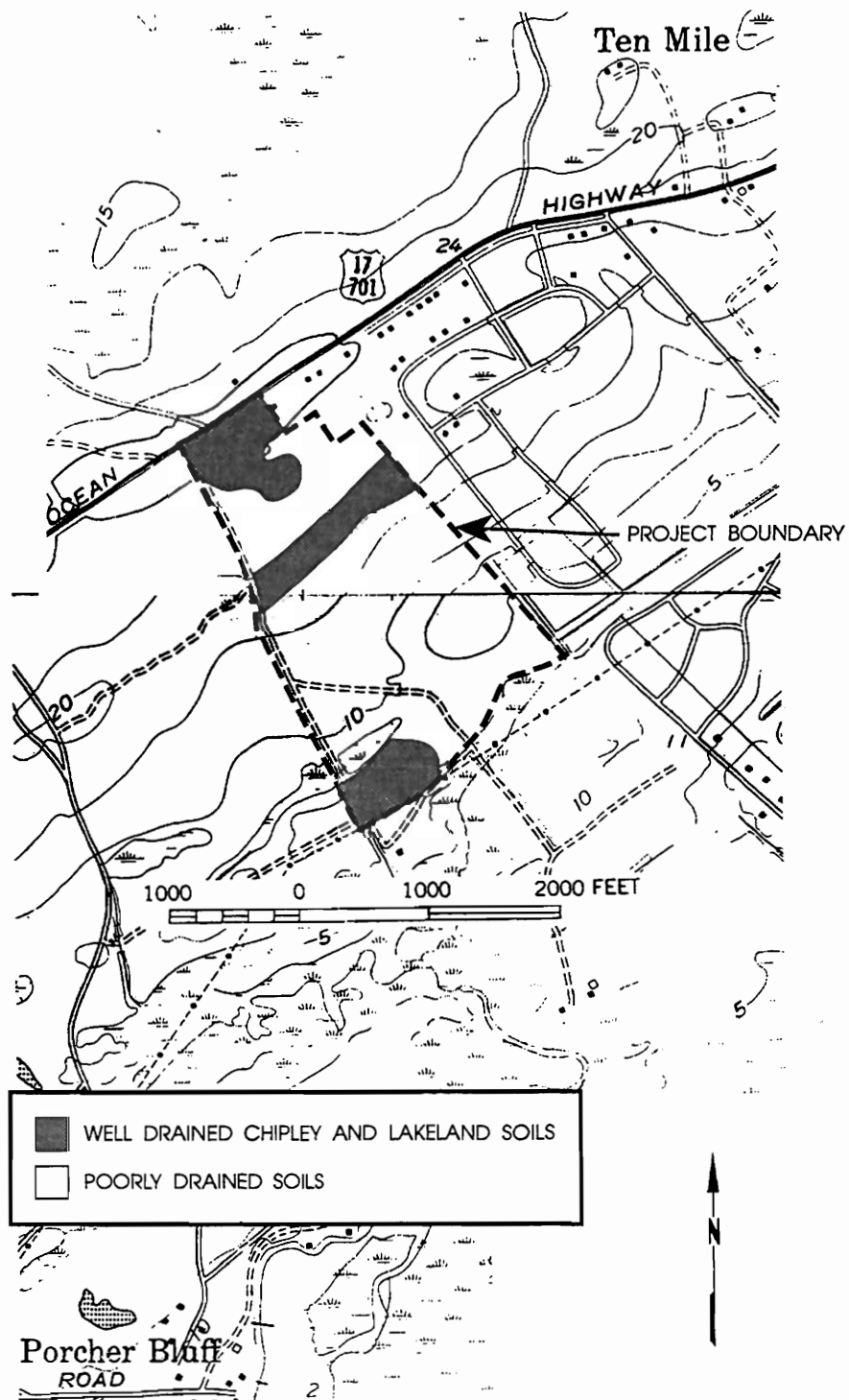


Figure 3. Portions of the Cainhoy and Fort Moultrie 7.5' USGS topographic maps showing the project area and the associated soil drainage.

"bears well the admixture of salt and marsh mud with the compost" (Allston 1854:13).

Only six soil series occur in the project area: Chipley loamy fine sand, Lakeland sand, Rutlege loamy fine sand, Scranton loamy fine sand, Wadmalaw fine sandy loam, and Yonges loamy fine sand (Table 1). Of those soils, only two — the Chipley and the Lakeland series — are considered well drained. The remainder are poorly drained (Miller 1971). Table 1 reveals that only 23% of the study tract can be considered well drained.

Figure 3 reveals that these well drained soils are limited to three areas on the study tract. One is situated at the northern or northwestern edge, along U.S. 17 N. The second occurs as a narrow band extending east-west through the mid-section of the tract, in an area of a sandy ridge.

Table 1.  
Soils found in the study tract

Soil	% of tract	drainage
Chipley	11.6	mod well - somewhat poorly drained
Lakeland	11.6	well drained
Rutlege	42.9	poorly - very poorly drained
Scranton	9.8	somewhat poorly drained
Wadmalaw	3.6	poorly drained
Yonges	20.5	poorly drained

The third area of relatively well drained soils occurs at the southwestern edge of the tract, immediately south of a marsh slough and extending to the edge of the property boundary (Figure 3).

While a large portion of the land on the study tract appears to be unsuitable for most crops, it is clear that adequate drainage could be constructed to make the soils more agriculturally productive. In fact, 1941 and 1949 aerial photographs of the project reveal that the northern half of the project, consisting primarily of Rutlege soils, was either still in cultivation or had recently been taken out of planting. This was confirmed on the ground by the presence of still visible plow furrows. In addition, several agricultural drainage ditches were found during the survey. The most obvious was found at the western end of Transect 11, where a ditch about 4 feet in width and 3 feet

in depth was found. Some evidence of additional agricultural drainage ditches can be seen on the early aerial photographs of the property.

### Climate

John Lawson described South Carolina in 1700 as having, "a sweet Air, moderate Climate, and fertile Soil" (Lefler 1967:86). Of course, Lawson tended to romanticize Carolina. In December 1740 Robert Pringle remarked that Charleston was having "hard frosts & Snow" characterized as "a great Detriment to the Negroes" (Edgar 1972:282), while in May 1744 Pringle states, "the weather having already Come in very hott" (Edgar 1972:685).

The major climatic controls of the area are latitude, elevation, distance from the ocean, and location with respect to the average tracks of migratory cyclones. Charleston's latitude of 32°37'N places it on the edge of the balmy subtropical climate typical of Florida, further south. As a result, there are relatively short, mild winters and long, warm, humid summers. The large amount of nearby warm ocean water surface produces a marine climate, which tends to moderate both the cold and hot weather. The Appalachian Mountains, about 220 miles to the northwest, block the shallow cold air masses from the northwest, moderating them before they reach the sea islands (Mathews et al. 1980:46).

The average high temperature in the Charleston in July is 81°F, although temperatures are frequently in the 90s during much of July (Kjerfve 1975:C-4). Mills noted:

in the months of June, July, and August, 1752, the weather in Charleston was warmer than any of the inhabitants before had ever experienced. The mercury in the shade often rose above 90°, and for nearly twenty successive days varied between that an 101° (Mills 1972:444).

The area normally experiences a high relative humidity, adding greatly to the discomfort. Kjerfve (1975:C-5) found an annual mean value of 73.5%

RH, with the highest levels occurring during the summer. Pringle remarked in 1742 that guns "sufferr'd with the Rust by Lying so Long here, & which affects any Kind of Iron Ware, much more in this Climate than in Europe" (Edgar 1972:465).

The annual rainfall in this portion of Charleston is about 49 inches, fairly evenly spaced over the year. While adequate for most crops, there may be periods of both excessive rain and drought. The Charleston area has recorded up to 20 inches of rain in a single month and the rainfall over a three month period has exceeded 30 inches no less than 9 times in the past 37 years. Likewise, periods of draught can occur and cause considerable damage to crops and livestock. Mills remarks that the "Summer of 1728 was uncommonly hot; the face of the earth was completely parched; the pools of standing water dried up, and the field reduced to the greatest distress" (Mills 1972:447-448). Another significant historical drought occurred in 1845, affecting both the Low and Up Country.

The annual growing season is 295 days, one of the longest in South Carolina. This mild climate, adequate rainfall, and long growing season, as Hilliard (1984:13) notes, is largely responsible for the presence of many southern crops, such as cotton and sugar cane.

### Floristics

The area of the study tract exhibits three major ecosystems: the maritime forest ecosystem which consists of the upland forest areas, the estuarine ecosystem of deep water tidal habitats, and the palustrine ecosystems which consist of essentially fresh water, non-tidal wetlands (Sandifer et al. 1980:7-9).

The maritime forest ecosystem has been found to consist of five principal forest types, including the Oak-Pine forests, the Mixed Oak Hardwood forests, the Palmetto forests, the Oak thickets, and other miscellaneous wooded areas (such as salt marsh thickets and wax myrtle thickets).

Of these the Oak-Pine forests are most common, constituting large areas of Charleston's original forest community. In some areas palmetto

becomes an important sub-dominant. Typically these forests are dominated by the laurel oak with pine (primarily loblolly with minor amounts of longleaf pine) as the major canopy co-dominant. Hickory is present, although uncommon. Other trees found are the sweet gum and magnolia, with sassafras, red bay, American holly, and wax myrtle and palmetto found in the understory.

Mills, in the early nineteenth century, remarked that:

South Carolina is rich in native and exotic productions; the varieties of its soil, climate, and geological positions, afford plants of rare, valuable, and medicinal qualities; fruits of a luscious, refreshing, and nourishing nature; vines and shrubs of exquisite beauty, fragrance, and luxuriance, and forest trees of noble growth, in great variety (Mills 1972:66).

The loblolly pine was called the "pitch or Frankincense Pine" and was used to produce tar and turpentine; the longleaf pine was "much used in building and for all other domestic purposes;" trees such as the red bay and red cedar were often used in furniture making and cedar was a favorite for posts; and live oaks were recognized as yielding "the best of timber for ship building;" (Mills 1972:66-85). Mills also observed that:

in former years cypress was much used in building, but the difficulty of obtaining it now, compared with the pine, occasions little of it to be cut for sale, except in the shape of shingles; the cypress is a most valuable wood for durability and lightness. Besides the two names we have cedar, poplar, beech, oak, and locust, which are or may be also used in building (Mills 1972:460).

The "Oak and hickory high lands" according to Mills were, "well suited for corn and provisions, also for indigo and cotton" (Mills 1972:443). The value of these lands in the mid-



Figure 4. Area of planted pines and old field conditions in the survey tract.

1820s was from \$10 to \$20 per acre, less expensive than the tidal swamp or inland swamp lands (where rice and, with drainage, cotton could be grown).

Today, virtually all of the project area's high ground evidences some form or another of disturbance, with much of this disturbance clearly being agricultural in nature. Large portions of the study tract are either in second growth forest dominated by scrub hardwoods, representing idle fields allowed to naturally go out of cultivation or are in planted pines, representing intentional abandonment of agriculture in favor of silvaculture. While the planted pine areas are often fairly open (Figure 4), the second growth forests tend to have dense, at times almost impenetrable,

vegetation (Figure 5).

The estuarine ecosystem in the vicinity includes those areas of deep water tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands, found exclusively at the southern edge of the project. Salinity in these areas may range from 0.5 parts per thousand (ppt) at the head of an estuary to 30 ppt where it comes into contact with the ocean. Estuarine systems are influenced by ocean tides, precipitation, fresh

water runoff from the upland areas, evaporation, and wind. The system may be subdivided into two major components: subtidal and intertidal (Sandifer et al. 1980:158-159). These estuarine systems are extremely important to our understanding of both prehistoric and historic occupations because they naturally contain a high biomass. The estuarine area contributes vascular



Figure 5. Area of second growth forest in the survey tract, showing a survey transect.

flora used for basket making, as well as mammals, birds, fish (over 107 species), and shellfish.

The last environment to be briefly discussed is the freshwater palustrine ecosystem, which includes all wetland ecosystems, such as the swamps, bays, savannas, poicisins, and creeks where the salinities measure less than 0.5 ppt. These palustrine ecosystems tend to be diverse, although not well studied (Sandifer et al. 1980:295). In the project area there are both interior impoundments or wetland areas, while further south there are large areas of open water on the marsh fringe which are likely fresh-water. It is likely that small freshwater ponds or wetland areas are associated with the various troughs scattered across the area. A number of forest types may be found in the palustrine areas which would attract a variety of terrestrial mammals. The typical vegetation might consist of red maple, swamp tupelo, sweet gum, red bay, cypress, and various hollies. Also expected in these areas would be wading birds and reptiles. It seems likely that these freshwater environs were of particular importance to the prehistoric occupants, but posed only a passing hinderance to the historic plantation owners.



## BACKGROUND RESEARCH

### Previous Research

There are, of course, a number of previously published archaeological studies available for the Charleston area to provide background (see Derting et al. 1991 for references to research in the Charleston area). Trinkley (1980), for example, provides detailed analysis of excavations at the nearby Stratton Place Shell Ring and Koob (1976) provides an overview of the Anne King Gregorie collection.

Of particular relevance, however, is an archaeological survey conducted by Brockington et al. (1987) of the tract immediately to the west of the Centex Homes parcel of Stratton Place. Called the Charleston National Golf Course tract, the study was conducted in 1987 and identified 21 sites and re-visited six previously recorded sites (Brockington et al. 1987:35). One of these sites, 38CH927, was found extending westward into the study tract. Further, some of the historical research prepared for this adjacent parcel is of interest in our effort to understand the remaining portions of Stratton Place. Finally, the Brockington study provides a general overview of Charleston archaeology which may be helpful to those not familiar with the region.

Subsequently, Chicora Foundation conducted data recovery excavations at two of the Charleston National sites, 38CH173 and 38CH175 (Trinkley 1994). While neither of these sites extend onto the Centex Homes tract, the study is of use in better understanding the history and heritage of the general area.

As stated earlier, an examination of the site files housed at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology revealed that while a number of sites from the Charleston National Golf Survey were found in the immediate vicinity of the Centex Homes tract, none appeared, at first, to extend onto the property. Two, however, were

immediately adjacent to the study tract — 38CH927 and 38CH928.

Site 38CH927 was found to represent a historic eighteenth and nineteenth century plantation complex. The site area, measuring about 200 feet north-south by 100 feet east-west, was centered at Easting 615900 Northing 3637410. Its primary feature appears to have been a brick chimney fall, although a series of 73 shovel tests and three judgementally placed units produced an apparently sizable collection of ceramics, glass, and nails (38CH927 site file, SCIAA). Rather more information was available from Brockington et al. (1987:63-70), including artifacts counts and a map of the various unit locations (Figure 6). The mean date for the recovered ceramics was 1803, although dates as early as 1799 and as late as 1814 were reported (Brockington 1987:63).

Brockington's study suggested that the encountered portion of the site might represent a slave settlement. The authors observe that other portions of the plantation, including perhaps the main house "may lie to the east, outside the tract" (Brockington et al. 1987:70). If correct, this would place the remainder of the plantation on the Centex Homes tract.

The Charleston National study also collected oral history concerning the site, a portion of which is worthy of repeating:

One informant, Mrs. Porcher Leopold of the nearby Stratton Place house, was familiar with the site. She reported that, when she was a child, the house, although empty, was still standing. She also recalled other structures, including slave houses, in the plantation . . . . Mrs. Leopold surface collected the area years ago when it was a plowed field,

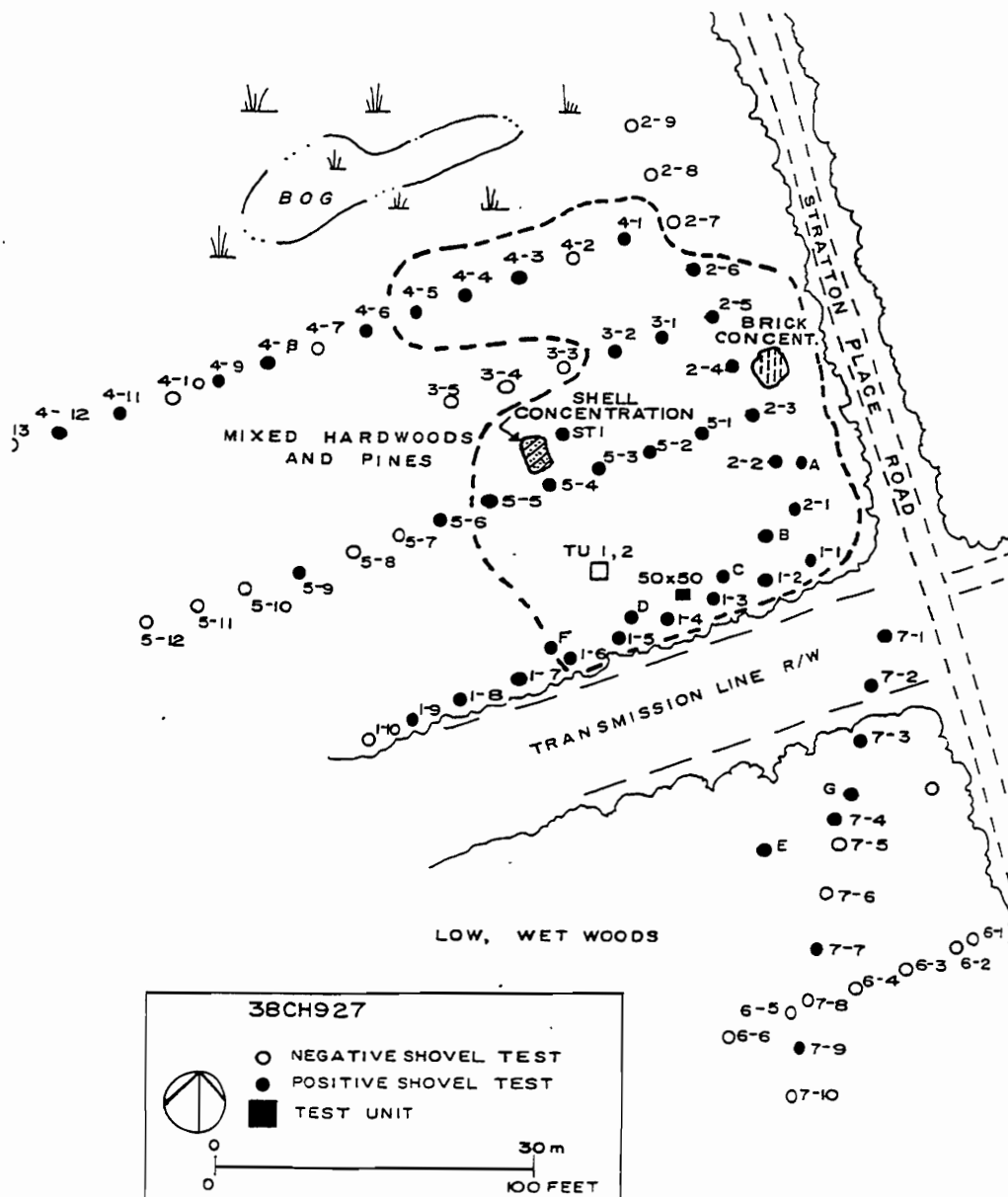


Figure 6. Site 38CH927 as it was found and reported by Brockington et al (1987:64) from their 1987 survey of the Charleston National Golf Course development. The Centex Homes tract is north of the transmission line right-of-way and west of the Stratton Place Road.

and she has an extensive collection, including French and English gunflints, Prosser buttons, and Chinese export porcelain (Brockington et al. 1987:70).

Site 38CH927 was recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Although we have received no reply from our inquiry to the S.C. SHPO, we believe, from previous discussions with individuals at the Charleston National Golf Course, that the site was determined to be eligible. We are uncertain what steps were taken to green space the site. In particular, the concentrations observed by the initial survey are no longer present, suggesting that the site has been damaged by construction of the golf course.

Site 38CH928 was reported to be a "small prehistoric site located in a wooded area" (38CH928 site form, SCIAA). Only one of five tests were positive, and only two small sherds were recovered. The site, centered at Easting 615780 Northing 3637570, was estimated to measure about 60 feet in diameter.

Based on the sparse artifact collection the site was recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. We presume the S.C. SHPO concurred with this assessment, although again we have not received any response from that office concerning our inquiry.

In addition to these two sites, there are a number of additional prehistoric sites scattered in the immediate area (Figure 7). Of particular importance is 38CH1092, a prehistoric midden tested in 1989 by the Charleston Chapter of the Archaeological Society of South Carolina. While there is no report of these excavations, a site form filed by Martha Zierden of The Charleston Museum observes that the excavations included one 5 by 10 and two 5 by 5 units in a site area measuring about 450 feet north-south by 150 feet east-west. The recovered materials, characterized as Late Woodland and Mississippian, were associated with possible post holes and a trash pit. This suggests that intact, well preserved subsurface remains are not only possible, but should be expected, in the study area.

Of equal importance, the materials filed with this site form include a sketch map from aerial photographs showing the bulk of Stratton Place, including the Centex Homes tract. This map, presumably showing the areas where materials were collected by William Koob, includes a site area in a field near U.S. 17 N. This, and a number of other sites shown, have never been assigned SCIAA site numbers.

### Prehistoric Synopsis

Several previously published archaeological studies are available for the Charleston area that provide additional background, including Brockington et al. (1987:6-10) and Trinkley (1980). A considerable amount of archaeology has been conducted in the Charleston area and these works should be consulted for broad overviews.

The Paleoindian period, lasting from 12,000 to perhaps 8,000 B.C., is evidenced by basally thinned, side-notched projectile points; fluted, lanceolate projectile points; side scrapers; end scrapers; and drills (Coe 1964; Michie 1977; Williams 1968). The Paleoindian occupation, while widespread, does not appear to have been intensive. Artifacts are most frequently found along major river drainages, which Michie interprets to support the concept of an economy "oriented towards the exploitation of now extinct megafauna" (Michie 1977:124).

The Archaic period, which dates from 8000 to about 1000 B.C., does not form a sharp break with the Paleoindian period, but is a slow transition characterized by a modern climate and an increase in the diversity of material culture. The chronology established by Coe (1964) for the North Carolina Piedmont may be applied with relatively little modification to the South Carolina coast. Archaic period assemblages, characterized by corner-notched and broad stemmed projectile points, are rare in the Sea Island region, although the sea level is anticipated to have been within 13 feet of its present stand by the beginning of the succeeding Woodland period (Lepionka et al. 1983:10).

To some the Woodland period begins, by definition, with the introduction of fired clay pottery about 2000 B.C. along the South Carolina

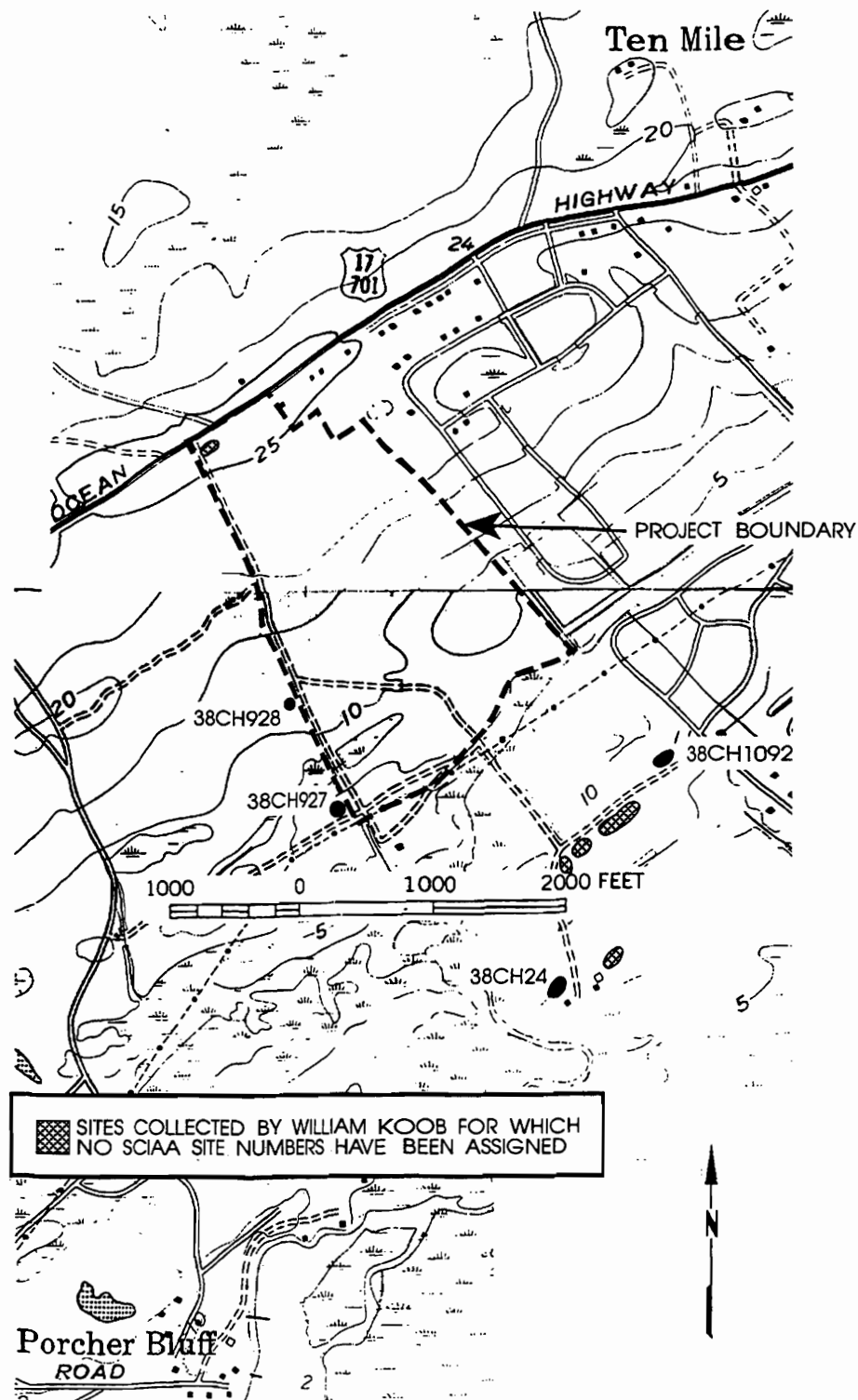


Figure 7. Previously recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity of the Centex Homes survey (based on data from the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site files).

coast. To others, the period from about 2500 to 1000 B.C. falls into the Late Archaic because of a perceived continuation of the Archaic lifestyle in spite of the manufacture of pottery. Regardless of the terminology, the period from 2500 to 1000 B.C. is well documented on the South Carolina coast and is characterized by Stallings (fiber-tempered) and Thom's Creek (sand or non-tempered) series pottery (Figure 8).

The subsistence economy during this early period on the coast of South Carolina was based primarily on deer hunting, fishing, and shellfish collection, with supplemental inclusions of small mammals, birds, and reptiles. Various calculations of the probable yield of deer, fish, and other food sources identified from shell ring sites such as Stratton Place near the project study tract and Lighthouse Point, also in Charleston County on James Island, indicate that sedentary life was not only possible, but probable.

Toward the end of the Thom's Creek phase there is evidence of sea level change, and a number of small, non-shell midden sites are found along the coast. Apparently the rising sea level inundated the tide marshes on which the Thom's Creek people relied.

The succeeding Refuge phase, which dates from about 1100 to 500 B.C., suggests fragmentation caused by the environmental changes (Lepionka et al. 1983; Williams 1968). Sites are generally small and some coastal sites evidence no shellfish collection at all (Trinkley 1982). Peterson (1971:153) characterizes Refuge as a degeneration of the preceding Thom's Creek series and a bridge to the succeeding Deptford culture.

The Deptford phase, which dates from 1100 B.C. to A.D. 600, is best characterized by fine to coarse sandy paste pottery with a check stamped surface treatment. Also present are quantities of cord marked, simple stamped, and occasional fabric impressed pottery. During this period there is a blending of the Deptford ceramic tradition of the lower Savannah with the Deep Creek tradition found further north along the South Carolina coast and extending into North Carolina (Trinkley 1983).

The Middle Woodland period (ca. 300

B.C. to A.D. 1000) is characterized by the use of sand burial mounds and ossuaries along the Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina coasts (Brooks et al. 1982; Thomas and Larsen 1979; Wilson 1982). Middle Woodland coastal plain sites continue the Early Woodland Deptford pattern of mobility. While sites are found all along the coast and inland to the fall line, sites are characterized by sparse shell and few artifacts. Gone are the abundant shell tools, worked bone items, and clay balls. In many respects the South Carolina Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 1000 to 1650 in some areas of the coast) may be characterized as a continuum of the previous Middle Woodland cultural assemblage.

The Middle and Late Woodland occupations in South Carolina are characterized by a pattern of settlement mobility and short-term occupations. On the southern coast they are associated with the Wilmington and St. Catherine's phases, which date from about A.D. 500 to at least A.D. 1150, although there is evidence that the St. Catherine's pottery continued to be produced much later in time (Trinkley 1981). On the northern coast there are very similar ceramics called Hanover and Santee.

The South Appalachian Mississippian period (ca. A.D. 1100 to 1640) is the most elaborate level of culture attained by the native inhabitants and is followed by cultural disintegration brought about largely by European disease. The period is characterized by complicated stamped pottery, complex social organization, agriculture, and the construction of temple mounds and ceremonial centers. The earliest coastal phases are named Savannah and Irene (A.D. 1200 to 1550). Sometime after the arrival of Europeans on the Georgia coast in A.D. 1519, the Irene phase is replaced by the Altamaha phase. Altamaha pottery tends to be heavily grit tempered, the complicated stamped motifs tend to be rectilinear and poorly applied, and check stamping occurs as a minority ware. Further north, in the Charleston area, the Pee Dee or Irene ware is replaced by pottery with bolder designs, thought to be representative of the protohistoric and historic periods (South 1971).

Although there has been very little archaeological exploration of historic period Native

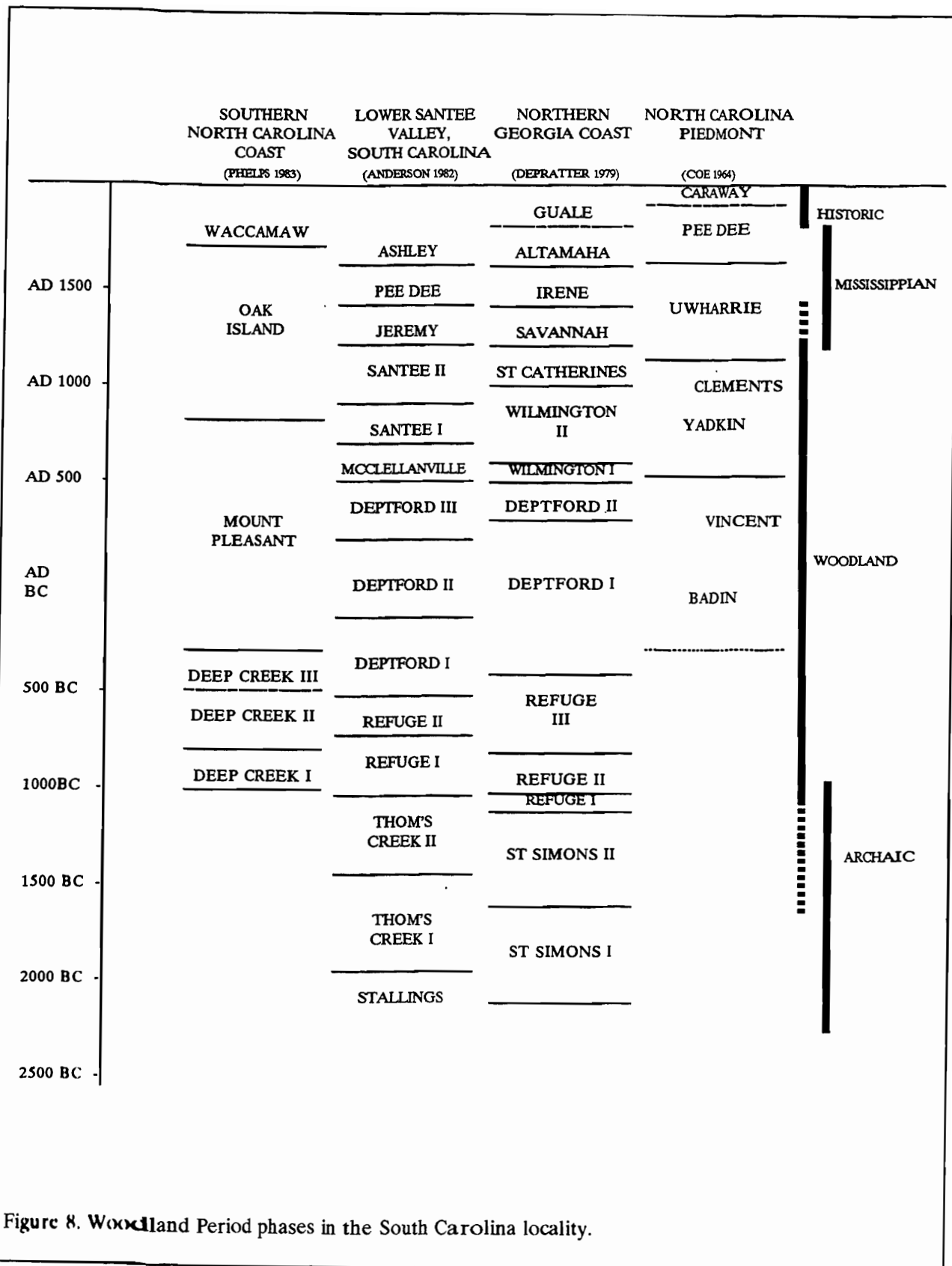


Figure 8. Woodland Period phases in the South Carolina locality.

American groups in the Charleston area, South has compiled a detailed overview of the ethnohistoric sources (South 1972).

### Historic Research

Just as there are a large number of sources recounting the prehistory of the project area, the history of Charleston County has been extensively reviewed, summarized, and critiqued. There should hardly be any need to do more than point the interested reader in one or two directions for additional information and details. Simple, and readily available, summaries include *A Short History of Charleston* (Rosen 1982) and *Charleston! Charleston!* (Fraser 1989).

The history of the project area is not as well documented, or even understood. The only historical overviews of the area are Gregorie's (1925) summary focusing primarily on prehistoric remains and her examination of role Christ Church played in the local politics (Gregorie 1961). Neither offers much of substance concerning the specific project tract.

An examination of Brockington et al. (1987:13-20) reveals that other researchers have had a similarly difficult time teasing apart the threads of history. For example, only one plat, focussing on the central third of the Charleston National project, was identified during their archival research (Brockington et al. 1987:Figure 4). In spite of this, they do provide a generally correct overview of property ownership for Stratton Place during the nineteenth century (Brockington et al. 1987:17).

In order to supplement the available research, this study included one day of research at the Charleston County Register of Mesne Conveyances and the South Carolina Historical Society. An additional half-day of research was conducted at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History exploring the McCrady Plats and the Agricultural Census data for the late antebellum, and at the Thomas Cooper Map Repository, searching for early aerial photographs and maps which might assist in better understanding postbellum agricultural land use practices.

The current research focused on creating a detailed chain of title for the property at least covering the nineteenth century. It appears that the study tract consisted of a variety of relatively small parcels held by various members of the Player family. These were combined by Joshua Player (b. 1777, d. 1833) and, in agreement with his trustees to a marriage settlement, six tracts totalling 456 acres were sold to Edward Mortimer on January 14, 1807 (Charleston County RMC, DB S7, p. 463). Relatively little is known about Joshua Player. Bailey (1984:449) reports that Joshua inherited a 450 acre plantation in Christ Church Plantation from his father, Thomas Player (b. ?, d. 1801). The "plantation" apparently consists of the six different tracts, suggesting that the lands might not have been very well developed by this time. Regardless, Joshua appears to have been primarily a merchant, being a partner in the firm of McFarlane & Player. This firm failed in 1801 and by 1816 he had relocated to the Fairfield District where he established himself as a planter.

His sale to Edward Mortimer, while likely encouraged by his desire to break ties with Charleston, was also founded on family relations. His mother was Elizabeth Mortimer and his sister, Martha (b. 1774), married Edward Mortimer (South Carolina Historical Society, Player Family, File 30-4).

Mortimer held the plantation for almost seven and a half years, selling what was described as 500 acres on April 24, 1813 to Daniel Legare (Charleston County RMC, DB X13, p. 113). At this time the tract was described as bounded to the west by lands of Daniel Legare, to the north by lands of Thomas Player Legare, to the east by lands of John White (representing the estate of Isaac Legare, George Bartow and Thomas Hall), and to the south on lands of Thomas Hall and Daniel Legare. A plat of the property, supposedly "annexed" to the deed and dated August 18, 1809 by Charles Gailliard, has not been identified. Mortimer's activity on the plantation has not been documented and all that has been identified about him thusfar is that he described himself, at least prior to the purchase of the lands, as a Charleston "merchant."

Although not yet clearly understood, it seems that the Legare family may have held the

plantation through Daniel's lifetime. At some point the property appears to have passed to Nathon Legare and in March 1818 it was sold by Thomas Hunt, Commissioner in Equity to Richard T. Morrison to partition Nathon Legare's lands (Charleston County RMC, DB Y8, p. 47). At this time the 647 acre tract was described as bounded to the north by Mrs. S. Hall, to the northwest by lands of Dr. Daniel Legare, to the west by lands of Thomas Barksdale, and to the southeast by the sound or a branch of the sea. Morrison appears to have conveyed the property to Mary Legare on October 26, 1836. On August 9, 1838 the 436 acre plantation was sold by Nathan L. Toomer, the executor of Mary Legare, to Robert M. Venning (Charleston County RMC, DB U10, p. 498). By this time the plantation was more clearly defined as bounding to the north on the "public road," meaning the Charleston-Georgetown Highway, today incorporated into U.S. 17, east on the lands of Anthony V. Toomer, south on the sound or branch of the sea, and west on the lands of Richard Morrison.

Although these conveyances are confusing, a plat was prepared for Robert Morrison of the 643 acres of the Nathon Legare plantation he acquired (McCrary Plat 6203). This plat, reproduced here as Figure 9, reveals at least the Legare-Morrison settlement, although few other details are present.

Venning held the plantation for a relatively short period of time, selling what was described as 653¾ acres on November 15, 1839 to Thomas Hall Jervey (Charleston County RMC, DB H11, p. 236). Jervey represents the longest-lived owner of the plantation, holding it through the late antebellum and Civil War. In spite of this, relatively little is known as Jervey. Salley (1906:38), for example, only records his birth date as January 1807 and that he died in Mount Pleasant in 1872.

The 1850 agricultural census reveals that the Jervey Plantation included only 75 acres of "improved" land, with the remaining 578 acres listed as unimproved, typically considered woods or marsh. The value of the property was listed at \$5,000. Jervey owned three horses, two mules, 10 milk cows, five oxen, 25 other cattle, 32 sheep, and 50 swine. The value of this livestock was listed at

\$667 and the value of animals slaughtered was shown as \$150. The plantation's only cash crop was rice, with 6400 pounds produced. Also listed are 350 bushels of corn (likely used as feed), 100 bushels of oats (also likely feed for the cattle), 31 pounds of wool, 120 bushels of peas and beans, 250 bushels of sweet potatoes, and 2 tons of hay.

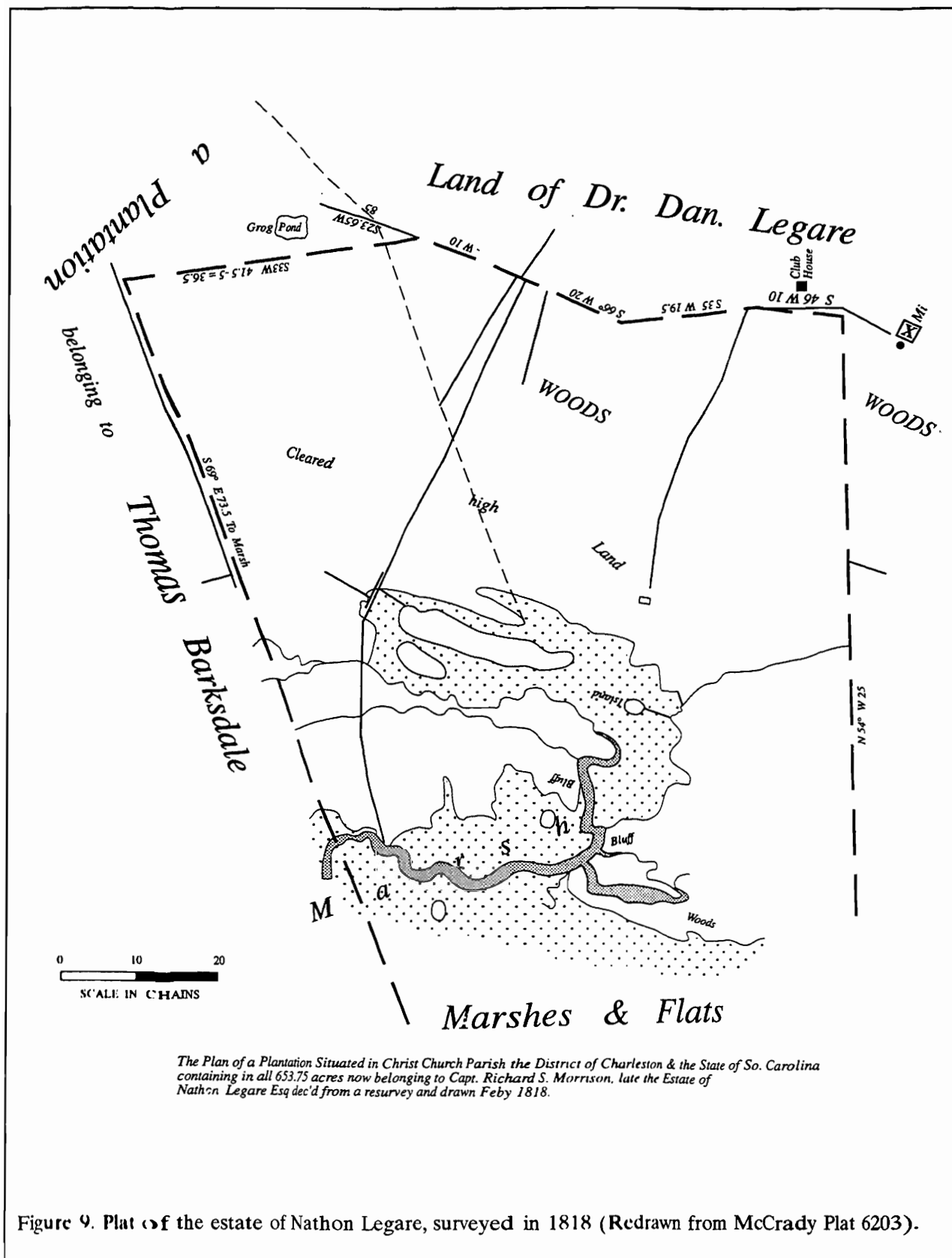
It seems, therefore, that in 1850 the Jervey plantation was similar to almost every respect to other Christ Church Parish tracts (see Brockington et al. 1985:38-35-42). Cotton was virtually non-existent and rice was the premier cash crop, being grown in the small swamps and sloughs so prevalent on tracts such as Jervey's. Cattle were of increasing importance, especially into the 1860s as rice declined. Unfortunately, the 1860 agricultural census fails to list Jervey. Even the 1870 census provides little useful information, noting only that his plantation, valued at \$5,800, included 180 acres of improved land and 1050 acres of unimproved woodlands. While this suggests that Jervey increased his holdings in the postbellum, no evidence of this was seen in the review of deeds.

While there was a noticeable economic decline in Christ Church's economic standing from 1850 to 1860, Jervey increased his slaves from 33 to 46. Only additional research can help determine if this was a momentary upturn, or evidence of some other economic activity. Curiously, Jervey's slave population appears to have become younger. In 1850 45% of the slaves were under the age of 16, while by 1860 the number under 16 years had increased to 54% of the total.

After Thomas Jervey's death the property was apparently held by his wife, who on February 9, 1889 leased the lands to Philip G. Porcher for five years (running through December 1893). This lease, however, excluded "a dwelling House and out buildings appurtenances to the same" (Charleston County RMC, DB A38, p. 14). This reveals that the Legare house was still present as late as 1889.

The heirs of Thomas H. Jervey sold the plantation, still described as containing 653¾ acres, on February 1, 1896 to Joseph Dill. At this time the property was bounded to the northwest by lands formerly of Dr. Daniel Legare, to the





northeast by lands formerly of Mrs. Sabina Hall, now Dr. A.V. Toomer, to the southeast on marshes, and to the southwest on lands of Mr. Thomas Barksdale. Clearly the deed references drew on very old plats and previous deed descriptions. The only plat for Jervey's holdings is one prepared in 1855 of the 569 acres of marsh lands which were also included in the holdings (McCrary Plat 5948).

In 1898 Fanny A. Dill sold the 653¾ acre plantation to Philip G. Porcher (Charleston County RMC, DB H23, p. 74). This deed references a "plat by John Diamond from a re-survey made in February 1818 which said plat is now in the possession of the granter under the conveyance from Joseph T. Dill to Fanny A. Dill and being the same possessed and conveyed by the heirs of Thos. H. Jervey to Joseph T. Dill." This plat has not been found in either the Charleston RMC or the McCrary plats. It may be in the Dill family papers held by The Charleston Museum or the South Carolina Historical Society. Alternatively, it may have been passed to the Porcher family and may be in their possession. Clearly this is a very significant plat and needs to be identified, if it still exists.

This tract was conveyed by Porcher, whose main holding was nearby Oakland Plantation, to his son, Philip G. Porcher, Jr. on January 9, 1900 (Charleston RMC, DB O23, p. 108). The property is described as containing 201 acres of high land and 472 acres of marsh. It is described as bordered to the north by lands of S.A. Whiteside and Dr. H.V. Toomer, to the east by the Santee Path, to the south by the lands of Philip G. Porcher, Sr. and James MacBeth, and to the west by lands of Legare. It is also described in the deed as "being a portion of the plantation belonging to the late Thomas H. Jervey," continuing the chain of title back to the Jervey tract.

The earliest maps for the project area are the 1918 Wando and Fort Moultrie 15' USGS topographic sheets (Figure 10). These were produced prior to the construction of U.S. 17 and show the area as it must have been in the first and second decades of the twentieth century. Only one structure is shown on the study tract — a single building about 500 feet east of Stratton Road and

400 to 500 feet south of the Georgetown Road. This site was identified during the archaeological survey as 38CH1622. The Stratton Road is shown extending southward, through the marsh, to a small island, suggestive of a landing or perhaps a lime kiln. No standing structures are shown in the vicinity of what was identified as the Jervey Plantation, 38CH927, although several structures are shown to the west, on the property of the Charleston National Golf Course. These may have been associated with the plantation, but there is no evidence that they were encountered in the original survey (Brockington et al. 1985:Figure 14).

There are several maps from the 1940s which also help to understand at least some of the activities on Porcher's Stratton Place. The War Department's 1943 Wando and 1943 Fort Moultrie maps (Figure 11) were based on the earlier, 1918 Wando and Fort Moultrie 15' topographic sheets and show relatively few changes. The structure tentatively identified as 38CH1622 is still present, although the structures west of the Jervey Plantation are no longer in existence.

Prepared only a few years later, the 1948 General Highway and Transportation Map of Charleston County shows no structures in the project area (Figure 12), although it does show the location of Porcher's cotton gin, off the study tract to the southeast.

The property passed from Philip G. Porcher to his son, John L. Porcher (Charleston County Probate File 81-256) in 1981 and that same year Porcher sold a 6/100 interest in the property to Stratton Place, Limited Partnership (Charleston County RMC, DB Z126, p. 23).

The historic research, therefore, reveals that the study parcel was associated with a variety of early nineteenth century families, suggesting a rather unstable economic history. Combined from a number of smaller tracts in the first quarter of the nineteenth century by the Player family, it was passed to Mortimer, then Legare, then Morrison, all within a span of just over a decade. Morrison appears to have had a relatively long tenure at the plantation, spanning almost two decades. The plantation seems to have been primarily associated with the Jervey family during the late antebellum. Their ownership appears to have spanned the

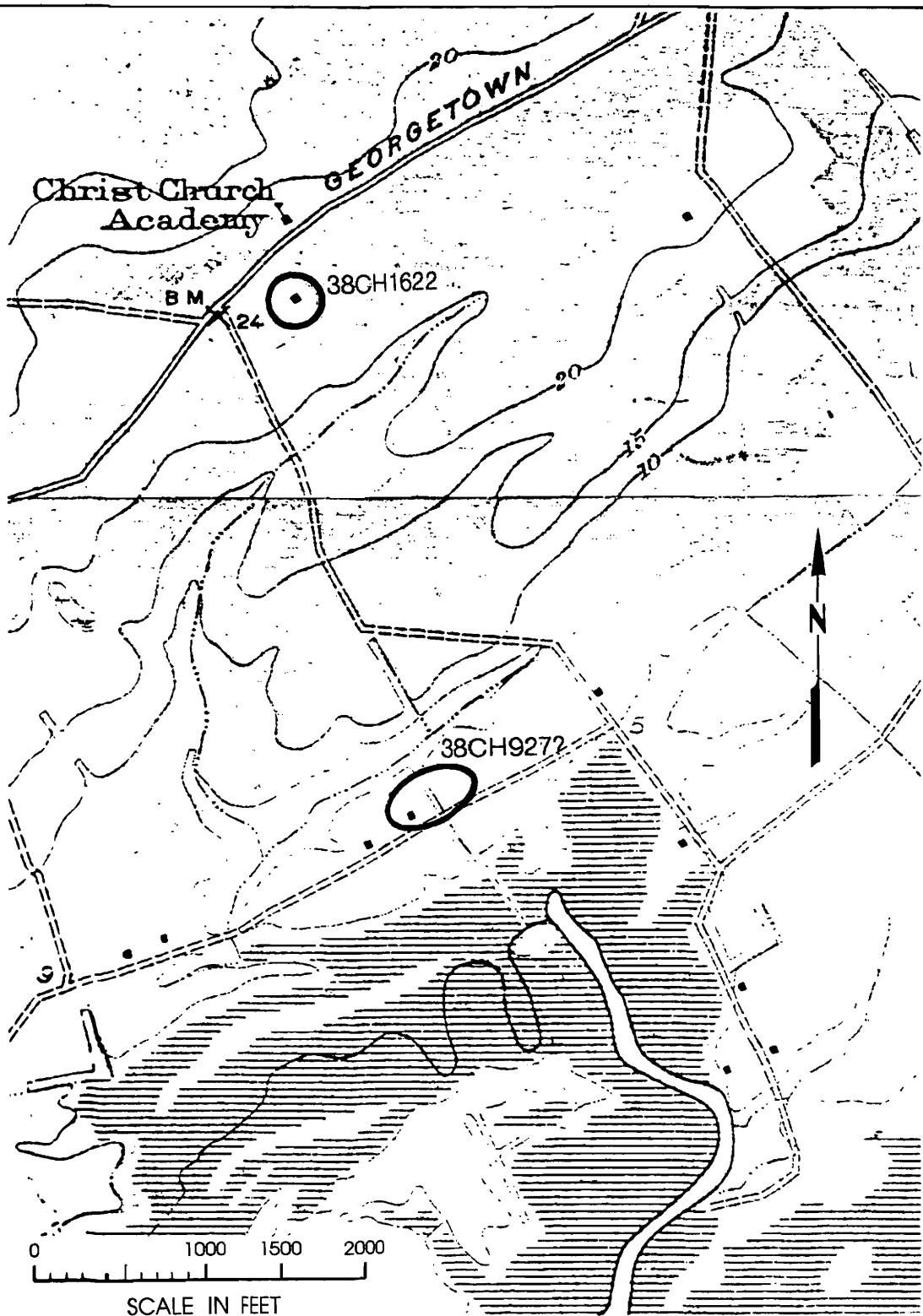
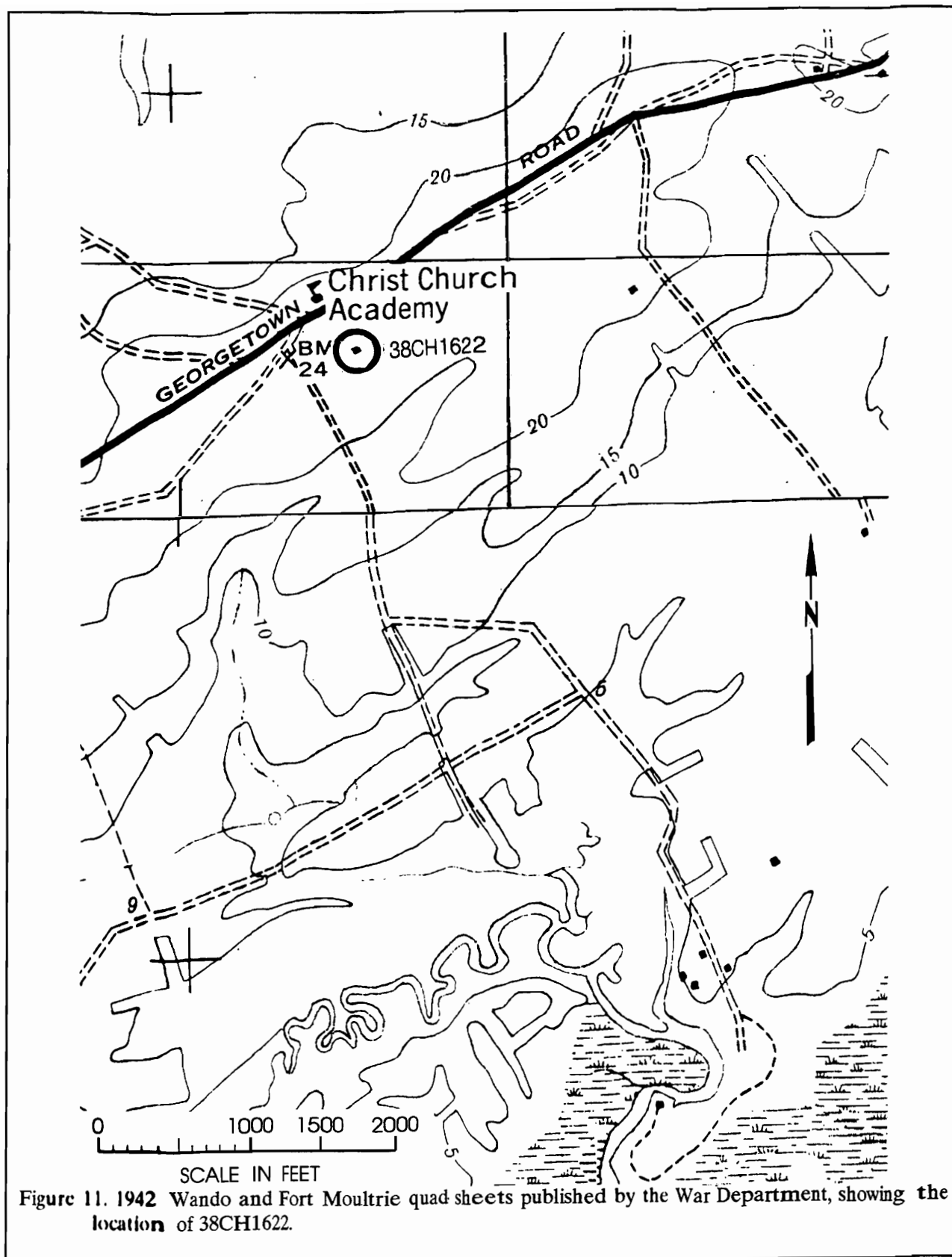


Figure 10. 1918 Wando and Fort Moultrie topographic sheets, showing the project area and the location of 38CH927 and 38CH1622.



period from 1839 through 1896, taking the property into the late postbellum.

While the late antebellum agricultural census records provide some indication of the plantation's economic well-being, this synopsis fails to provide a very clear understanding of postbellum period. The tracts use by the Jerveys, Dills, and Porchers is poorly understood. The degree of tenancy present, the use of the property, and the agricultural arrangements present all need further study and exploration.

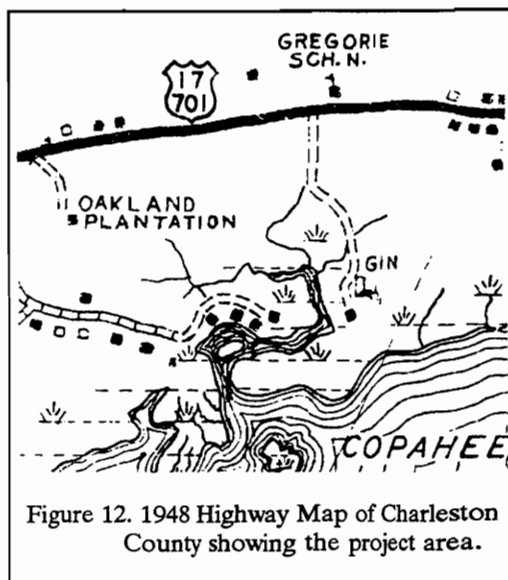


Figure 12. 1948 Highway Map of Charleston County showing the project area.



## FIELD SURVEY AND RESULTS

### Field Methodology

The initially proposed field techniques involved the excavation of shovel tests at 100 foot intervals on transects spaced 100 feet apart on those areas of the tract which exhibited high, well-drained soils. In areas of poorly drained soil, we proposed the excavation of transects 200 feet apart with shovel tests along those transects also at 200 foot intervals.

Should sites be identified either by shovel testing or surface inspection, further tests would be used to obtain data on site boundaries, artifact quantity and diversity, site integrity, and temporal affiliation. These tests would be spaced at 25 foot intervals and would minimally bisect the site on cardinal directions, extending where possible until two negative shovel tests were encountered. The information required for completion of South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology site forms would be collected and photographs would be taken, if warranted in the opinion of the field director. For this survey, an archaeological site was defined as three or more artifacts within a 200 foot area. Modern garbage (dating to the past fifty years) was generally disregarded unless associated with earlier remains.

All soil would be screened through 1/4-inch mesh, with each test numbered sequentially. Each test would measure about 1 foot square and would normally be taken to subsoil. All cultural remains would be bagged by provenience, with the exception of brick, mortar, and shell, which would be noted and discarded in the field. Notes would be maintained for profiles at any sites encountered.

These field methods were put into effect with no substantive deviations. Upon arrival at the property it was found to have been recently surveyed, opening transects running parallel to U.S. 17 at 100 foot intervals. While these occur at a compass bearing of approximately N70°E, they

are described as running grid east-west. Although many of these survey transects were only a few feet wide, they did permit easy access to virtually all areas of the property, many of which would have been otherwise very overgrown.

Although large portions of the property were known to have very poorly drained soils, an effort was made to visually examine all transects. Shovel tests were placed in all areas absent standing water, although many areas exhibited very reduced, wet soils which were not screened.

A total of 17 transects were shovel tested (Figure 13). These were spaced at either 100 or 200 foot intervals, depending on visual inspection of the actual soils present. Where the soils were relatively dry and well drained, transects were spaced 100 feet apart (see, for example, Transects 1 and 2, and 16 and 17). Where soils were poorly drained (or where the well-drained soils occupied only narrow ridges), transects were spaced at 200 foot intervals (representing the vast majority of the parcel). In areas of moderate drainage, transects were spaced at 200 foot intervals, but shovel tests were excavated at 100 foot intervals (see, for example, Transects 4, 7, and 12). In all, 219 shovel tests were excavated, for an average of 2.2 per acre based on the total 99 acre parcel. If areas of standing water are excluded, the survey tract is reduced to approximately 85 acres, resulting in about 2.6 shovel tests per acre.

The only significant problem encountered during the survey was the identification of the western boundary. Although both a development map and the property tax map suggests the boundary runs along the direct access road (also known as the Stratton Place Road), another development map suggests that the boundary includes a 100 to 400 foot strip west of the road up to the developed portion of the Charleston National Golf Course. An examination of the Brockington et al. (1987) survey of the Charleston

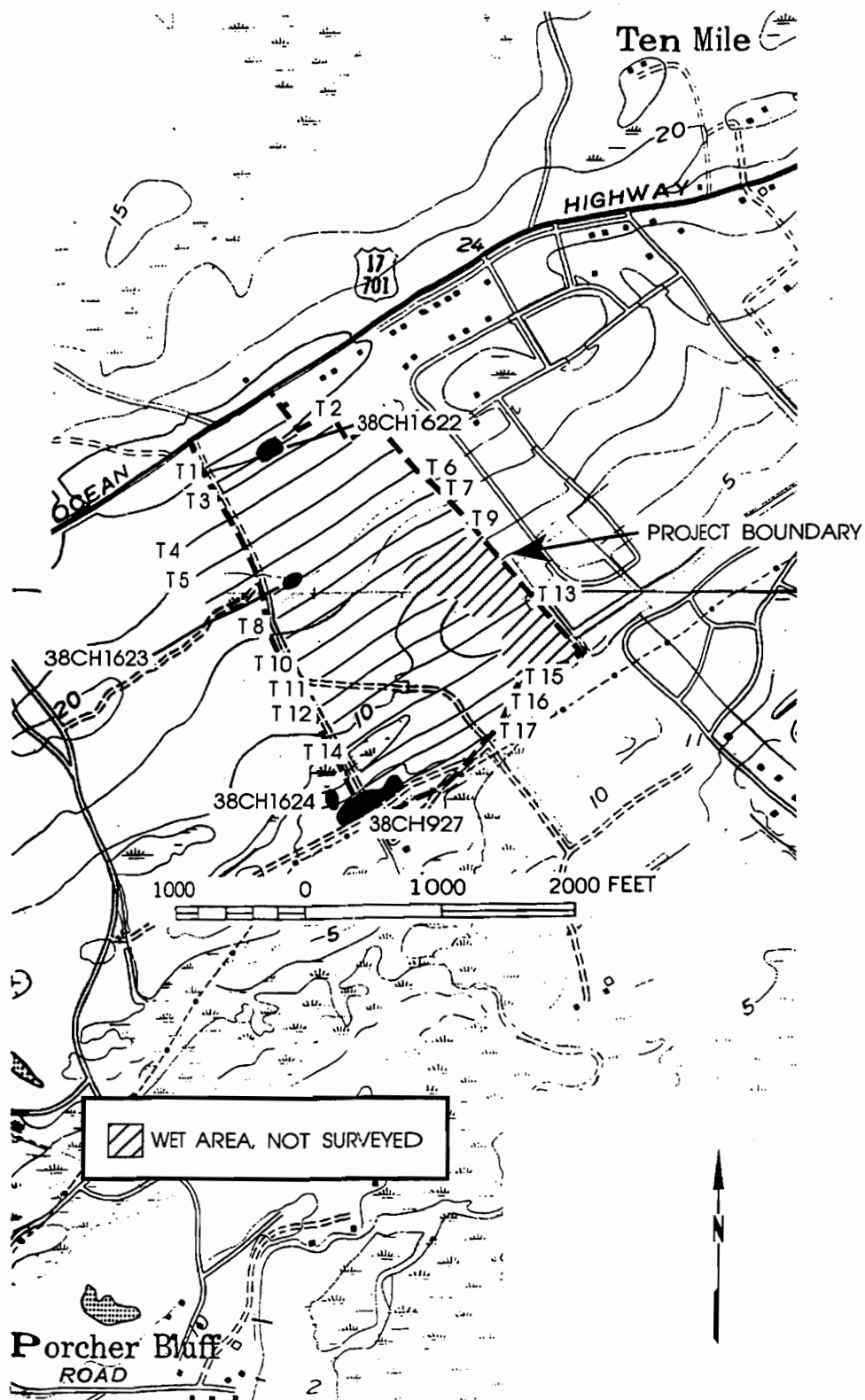


Figure 13. Transects and identified sites in the immediate area of the Centex Homes tract.



National Golf Course suggests that this survey extended eastward to the Stratton Place road. Consequently, this current survey incorporates only the area west of the road, except for the re-survey and testing of the Jervey Plantation, 38CH927.

#### Laboratory Methodology

The cleaning of the recovered artifacts was begun in Charleston during the field work and completed in Columbia. Cataloging of the specimens was conducted at the Chicora laboratories in Columbia. All items were assessed for conservation needs during this laboratory processing. No items were encountered which warranted conservation and all items were either curated in their current condition or were drawn and discarded (as noted on the specimen catalogs).

These collections were accepted for curation by the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology and are curated under their individual site numbers, using this institutions accessioning system. Specimens were packed in plastic bags and boxed. Field notes were prepared on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper and photographic materials were processed to archival standards. All original field notes, with archival copies, are also curated with this facility.

Analysis of the collections followed professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. Prehistoric pottery was classified using common coastal South Carolina typologies (DePratter 1979; Trinkley 1983). The temporal, cultural, and typological classifications of the historic remains follow Noel Hume (1970), Miller (1980, 1991), Price (1970), and South (1977). In general, none of the sites produced especially large collections, so analysis is limited to simple, descriptive statements adequate to support assessments of eligibility.

#### Results of the Survey

As a result of the field survey three new sites, 38CH1622, 38CH1623, and 38CH1624, were identified and one previously recorded site, 38CH927, was re-visited. Each of these sites will be briefly explored in this section.

#### **38CH927**

This site, as previously discussed, was first identified by Brockington et al. (1987:63-70) as a result of their Charleston National Survey. The current survey significantly increased the size of the site, so that its central UTM coordinates are now at E615940 N3637400 and the site is estimated to encompass an area measuring 450 feet east-west by at least 250 feet north-south (Figures 13 and 14). Although the southern boundary, which extends off the survey tract has not been established, the site as it is currently recorded includes about 2.6 acres. Most of this appears to be situated within the proposed development tract.

The site is situated on a sandy ridge at an elevation of about 10 to 15 feet AMSL. The topography slopes noticeably from the ridge northward into a remnant slough (Figure 15). The slope to the south, toward the open marsh, is more gradual. To the west there appears to be a slight rise, although the extensive landscaping which accompanied the construction of the golf course makes assessing the original topography difficult (Figure 16). The land very gradually slopes to the east. It appears that the site is situated on the highest portion of the tract in closest proximity to the marsh.

Soils are classified as Chipley Series, although the shovel tests suggest that this may represent a small area of much better drained soils. Shovel tests reveal a typical profile of between 0.9 and 1.2 foot of dark brown sand (7.5YR3/2) overlying a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) sand subsoil.

Vegetation includes both areas of planted pines, mixed pines and hardwoods, and to the south, open grass land under the transmission line. The transects clearly crossed areas of very old vegetation, such as one where an 85-inch live oak was encountered, and areas where second growth vegetation had only begun to dominate in the past decade. It seems likely, based on this vegetation and the associated soil profiles, that much of the site area has been cultivated within recent memory.

Transect 16 was placed at the base of the slope to the north and none of the shovel tests produced any artifacts. Transect 17, 100 feet to the

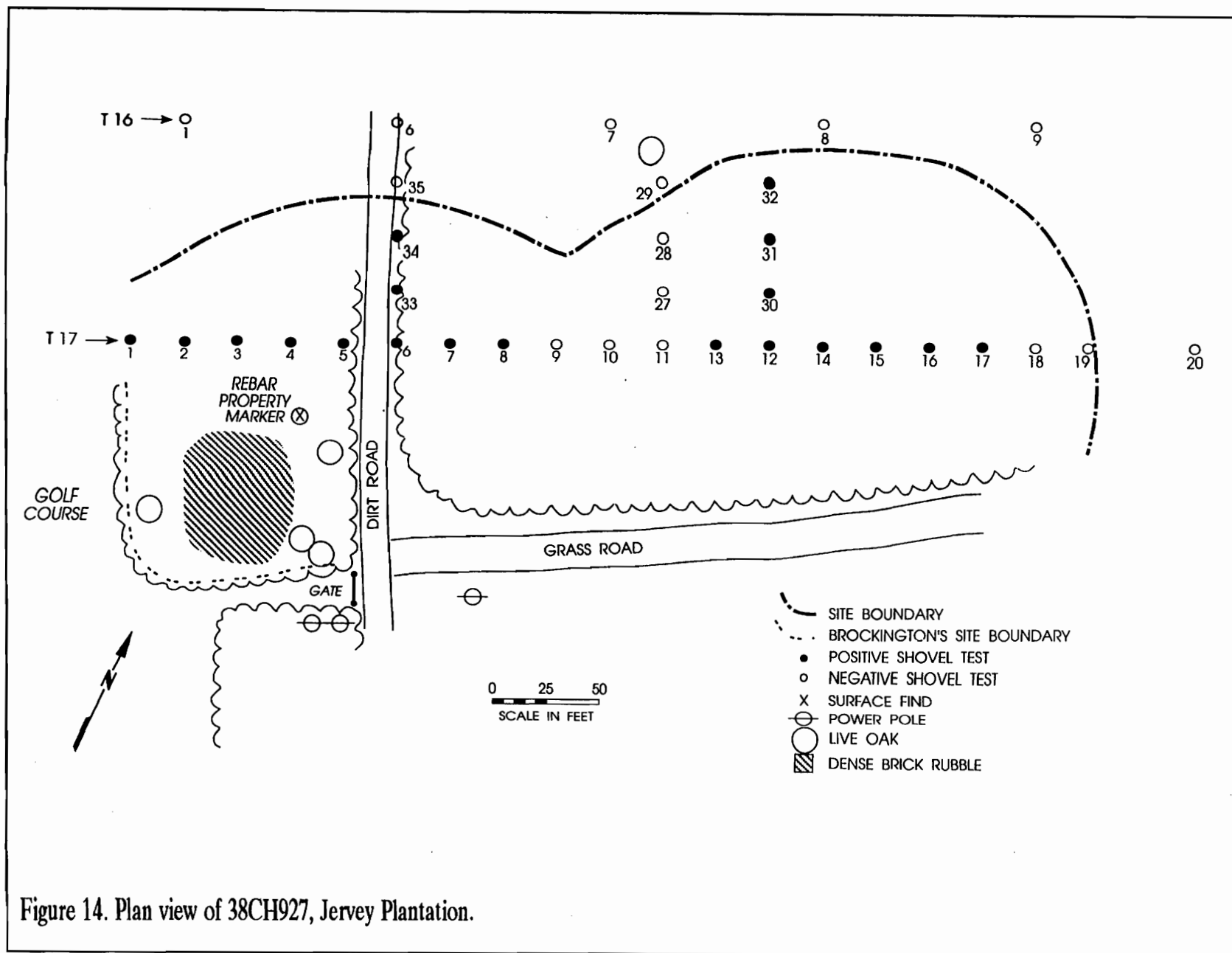




Figure 15. Topography sloping toward the slough from 38CH927. View is to the north.

south, was fortuitously placed to parallel the sand ridge and appears to run either through the heart of the site or along its northern third. The transect was begun at the edge of the golf course and tests were placed at 25 foot intervals to the east for the next 450 feet. All but five of these tests were positive (and one of these five produced brick fragments). Three lines were run northward. Off

situated at the southern edge of the survey tract and extends at least to the legal boundary and probably beyond. The Charleston National Golf Course survey, for example, found that materials associated with the plantation extended at least 100 feet south of the transmissions line (Brockington et al. 1987:Figure 34).



Figure 16. Golf course adjacent to 38CH927. View is to the west.

Shovel Test 6, three tests were placed at 25 foot intervals. The fourth test, of course, was Shovel Test 6 on Transect 16. Two of these were positive. Off Shovel Test 12 three additional tests were excavated, all three of which were positive. Finally, off Shovel Test 11, which was negative, a series of three additional tests were excavated north at 25 foot intervals. All three of these tests were also negative. No testing was conducted to the south since the site is

As shown on Figure 14, it appears there may be a break in the site between Shovel Tests 8 and 13. This may reflect two different site areas, perhaps a main house and associated slave settlement. One site number was used to incorporate both areas at this time, pending additional, Phase 2, testing.

Surface visibility to the west of Stratton Place road was good and a dense scatter of brick remains was found

Table 2.  
Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing at 38CH927, Jervey Plantation

[illegible]

covering an area measuring about 100 feet in diameter. Surrounding this, however, brick rubble was still common and even extended north of Transect 17. While it is difficult to evaluate the damage which occurred as a result of the golf course construction, there is no evidence of the distinct brick chimney fall or shell concentration originally reported for this site (Brockington et al. 1987:Figure 34, reproduced here as Figure 6).

Recovered were 67 specimens, including 10 small prehistoric sherds (Table 2). The remainder of the collection includes materials from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Although the collection is small, there were 20 ceramics suitable for mean ceramic dating. These yield a date of 1800.5 (Table 3) which very nicely replicates the mean dating previously suggested for the site (Brockington et al. 1987:63).

One of the best sources available to understand the historic context of 38CH927 is the economic history of the region prepared by Dr. Michael Scardaville in Brockington et al. (1985:24-78). In particular, we learn that Christ Church Parish, during the late antebellum, was suffering a severe economic recession. Rice, largely focused on the Wando River, was being abandoned as it became clear that the area's high salinities and unpredictable flow made rice cultivation economically unpredictable. Cotton, which contributed greatly to the economic well-being of the sea island planters, was never a significant crop on Christ Church plantations. Truck farming, while very important in the postbellum, was of only limited importance during the antebellum. Scardaville found, however, that planters turned increasingly to ranching as a economic alternative to cash crops. While output decreased for such products as oats, Irish and sweet potatoes, and butter, the value of livestock between 1850 and 1860 increased by 120%, corn production (used as feed) increased by nearly 45%, wool production increased by 126% and the value of animals slaughtered increased from \$0 in 1850 to \$5,270 in 1860. Scardaville notes that, "with a readily available market across the Cooper River, ranching, combined with some truck farming, provided the parish with a modest means of

Table 3.  
Mean Ceramic Date Calculation for 38CH927

Ceramic	Date Range	Mean Date		
		(xi)	(fi)	fi x xi
Creamware, undecorated	1762-1820	1805	7	12537
Pearlware, poly hand paint	1795-1815	1805	2	3610
blue tp	1795-1840	1818	1	1818
annular/cable	1790-1820	1810	1	1805
undecorated	1780-1830	1805	9	16245
Whiteware, non-blue tp	1826-1875	1851	<u>1</u>	<u>1851</u>
			21	37,866

$$37,866 \div 21 = 1803.1$$

support" (Brockington et al. 1985:41).

This means of support, however, was coupled with a gradual decline in slave population. In Christ Church Parish the number of slaves fell from 3,585 in 1850 to 2,546 in 1860, a 29% decrease. While slave holding was still an essential ingredient in the economy of Christ Church, the face of the plantation was changing on the eve of the Civil War.

These economic and social changes — their impact on both slaves and masters alike — offer a range of significant research questions. Whereas much previous work has been focused on the wealthy plantations, those focused on rice cultivation during the eighteenth century, or sea island cotton plantation during the nineteenth century, the exploration of what might be called the "small" planter has received relatively little attention. Likewise, the impact of declining fortunes on the planter and slave have been rarely explored. Clearly slavery did not exist in an economic vacuum. The treatment of slaves, their view of the world, and their understanding of their place in that world, had to be colored by the economic well-being of the plantation owner. Plantation settings such as 38CH927 offer the potential to study these issues.

The Jervey plantation was apparently owned by a succession of planters and merchants in the first half of the nineteenth century. It wasn't until the Morrison tenure that ownership seems to have stabilized. The Jervey family held the tract during the period of economic decline in Christ

Church. Consequently, it is possible to control for changes in ownership and, to some extent, changes in managerial style, since the tract was owned by one individual during the period in question.

Examining the archaeological remains, there is certainly evidence of plowing. Yet there is also evidence of considerable site integrity. Several of the shovel tests reveal artifact bearing strata to depths in excess of 1.2 feet, suggesting the possibility of buried features. The artifacts recovered represent an array of nineteenth century artifacts, including large ceramics, nails, window glass, and table glass. This diverse assemblage was also found to include well preserved animal bone and carbonized floral material. Brick and mortar are present as broadly defined surface scatters. These, with additional research, may be identified as structural locations. The presence of dense surface remains suggests that intact subsurface architectural features may be present.

These are, of course, the types of data sets which are essential in the exploration of the research questions proposed for 38CH927. The presence of the main plantation complex will help us understand the status and well-being of the plantation owner. In other words, these resources will help us address how the owner adjusted to these economic down-turns through material culture remains and foodways. The assemblage associated with the slave settlement will help us gauge the affect of the plantation's economic well-being on its African-American population. Again, material culture remains such as ceramics and personal goods, when combined with food remains, may help us better understand the lives of the African-Americans caught in an economic web not of their own creation.

Consequently, this site is recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. This evaluation echoes that previously offered by Brockington et al. (1987:70).

Archaeologists typically recommend green spacing of significant heritage resources as the most appropriate form of mitigation. This allows the site to be "banked" and ensures that it is available for future study. The alternative, should green spacing not be feasible, is data recovery, where the significant data is preserved through

controlled excavations.

Green spacing may be less costly, in the short-term, than data recovery, depending on the cost of data recovery compared to the potential value of the green spaced acreage. However, the cost comparisons should realistically explore long-term costs as well. Investigations at the adjacent Charleston National Golf Course tract revealed that while green spacing can be a valuable tool in site preservation, it must be combined with carefully developed green spacing plans and provisions. Consequently, green spacing is not always a "cheap" alternative to data recovery.

If green spacing is the selected alternative then a green spacing plan must be prepared. This plan will include deed restrictions and other steps taken to ensure the preservation of the site in perpetuity. It will also contain special provisions to ensure that the site is not damaged by construction activities. There will also be provisions to ensure that, long-term, the site receives the constant care and maintenance it requires to preserve and protect the archaeological resources in perpetuity.

If data recovery is the selected alternative then a data recovery plan must be prepared which outlines how the research potential of the site will be addressed. In the case of 38CH927 there is a need to ensure that the data recovery plan incorporates extensive historic research, intensive testing of the archaeological site sufficient to identify structural locations, and excavations appropriate to collect data from the different areas of the complex.

### 38CH1622

This site was initially encountered during the investigation of Transect 2. A large pile of brick was bisected by the transect and had been flagged by the survey crew. Additional pedestrian survey revealed other above ground features, including a large live oak, an area of daffodils, and a pile of roofing tin (Figures 17 and 18).

The survey identified the central UTM coordinates as being E615700 N3638250 and the site is estimated to measure about 175 feet east-west by 100 feet north-south, or about 0.4 acre

(Figures 13 and 19). All of the site is situated within the proposed development tract, apparently in an area slated for commercial development.

The site is found on relatively flat topography at an elevation of about 25 feet AMSL. What relief there is appears to be a gradual slope to a freshwater slough about 2000 feet to the south.

Soils are classified as Chipley Series, although the shovel tests indicate that the soils are relatively well drained. The typical soil profile reveals between 0.6 and 0.9 foot of dark brown sand (7.5YR3/2) overlying a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) or occasionally a yellowish brown (10YR5/8) sand subsoil. Evidence of plowing, such as remnant plow furrows, was found at the edge of the site, although none were observed in the site

core. This, coupled with the site's soil profiles, suggests that the site has not been cultivated since its abandonment.

The site is characterized by a vegetation of planted pines with an understory of hardwood scrub. It appears that the pines were "dibbled" in without any significant cultivation — allowing features such as remnant vegetation (the live oak and area of daffodils) and architectural debris (brick chimney fall and roofing tin) to remain undisturbed.

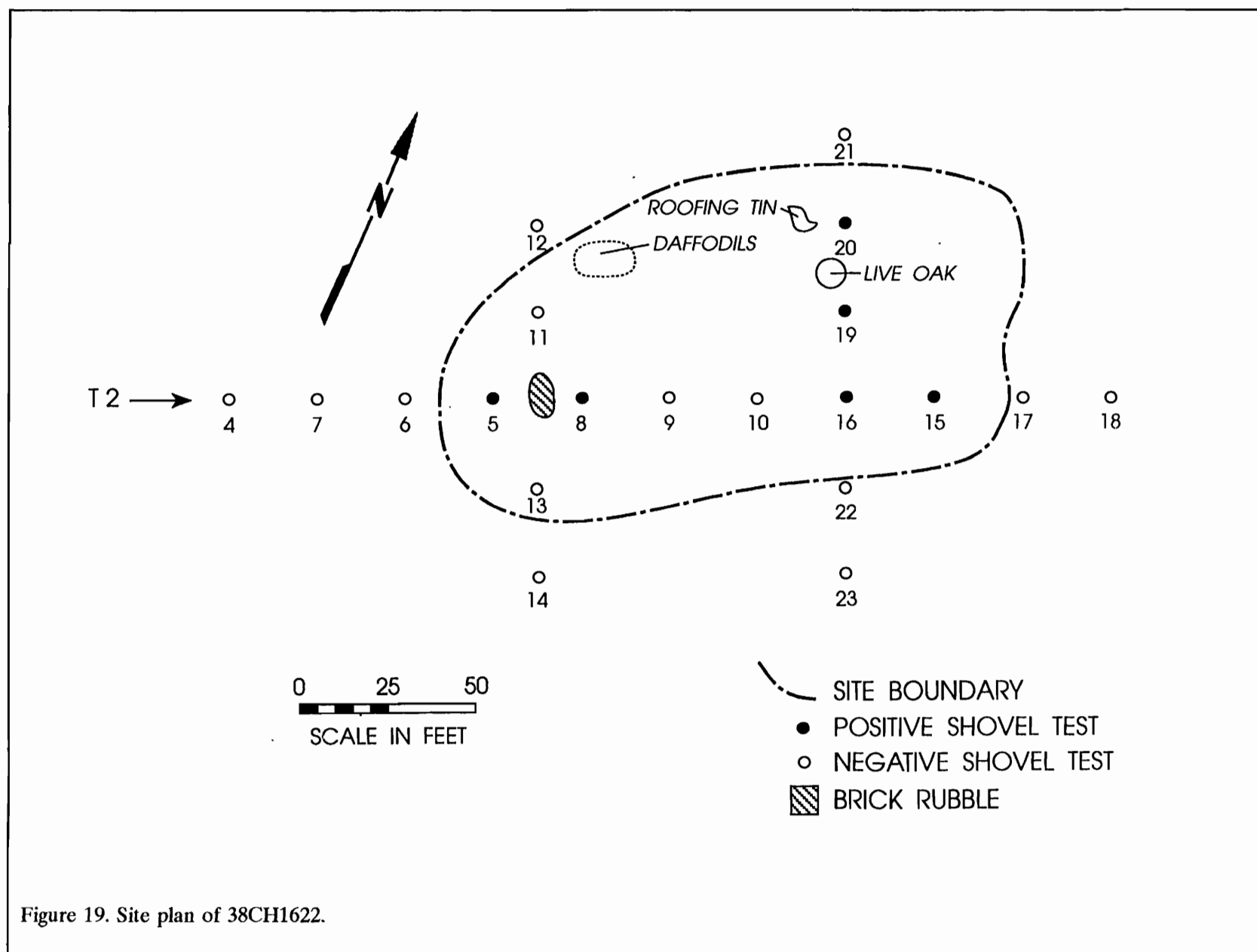
As mentioned, the site was bisected by Transect 2. Twenty shovel tests were excavated at the site in order to determine boundaries, collect artifacts for temporal assessment, and evaluate site integrity. Nine shovel tests were found to be within the



Figure 17. Daffodils are still growing in the yard area of 38CH1622.



Figure 18. Roofing tin associated with 38CH1622. View is to the northwest.





established site boundaries and of these six (66.6%) produced artifacts. The site boundaries (Figure 19) are based both on these positive shovel tests and also on the presence of landscape features.

Recovered were 31 specimens from the six positive tests (Table 4). While dateable ceramics were not recovered, a U.S. dime was found in the testing. Although the date was worn off, the specimen exhibits the pillar and branch motif found on coins from 1916 through 1941 — spanning the period the site is shown on topographic maps. Also present at the site was a portion of a horizontal flat bolt plate, typical of those used in the nineteenth century. The latest item in the collection is a brass pencil ferrule, which of course is still found on wooden pencils today.

Michael Scardaville offers an initial overview of postbellum agricultural activity in Christ Church (Brockington et al. 1985:52-78). Although the data are generalized, it is clear that Charleston County participated in the gradual move to truck farming, largely using tenant labor, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Unfortunately, it is not possible to easily break out statistics for individual parishes this late, so the data offer relatively little information concerning the specific project area. Nevertheless, the shift away from cash crops and to truck farming seems to have intensified, at least among the white land owners, in the mid-twentieth century.

With so little historical information available to help understand tenancy in the Christ Church parish, sites such as 38CH1622 take on special significance. This is even more true when there is the potential to associate the site with a specific owner and the descendants of that owner still retain the property. Site 38CH1622 offers the potential for the collection of detailed oral history.

Questions appropriate for this site, therefore, can focus on the nature of the agricultural undertakings, the influence of the

Table 4.  
Artifacts recovered from 38CH1622

	Shovel Tests on Transect 2					
	5	8	15	16	19	20
clear bottle glass	1	1	1			
manganese bottle glass		1				
tin can fragments				6		
nails	5	3				
window glass		1				
bldg. hardware	1					
coin	1					
brass ferrule		1				
UID iron		2			4	3

property owner on the choices and livelihood of the tenant, and the profitability of this particular setting. Brockington et al. (1985:236) mention that while much (most?) of tenant archaeology is based on sites focused on cotton, an entirely different scenario is present in the Charleston area where truck farming was an essential component.

This seems to be the only tenant site on Stratton Place, although there was a sizeable black community to the east. Did Stratton Place, and other nearby farms, rely more day labor than tenants? If so, site 38CH1622 may represent something rather unique.

As previously mentioned, this site is present on the 1918 topographic sheets and the 1943 War Department map of the project area (Figure 10 and 11), but is absent on the 1948 General Highway and Transportation Map (Figure 12). This, coupled with the artifact assemblage, is consistent with a tenant structure dating from the first half of the twentieth century, but likely abandoned by ca. 1950.

The data sets present at the site include a range of artifacts. As typical of tenant sites, glassware dominates the collection. In spite of this architectural materials are present. So too are landscape features which help to place the site in a better context. The shovel tests suggest the site exhibits good integrity and there is no evidence of destructive plowing.

It appears that these data sets are appropriate to address the broad questions outlined for 38CH1622. Consequently, the site is

recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Like 38CH927, this site may be either green spaced or subjected to data recovery (assuming that the lead compliance agency and the S.C. SHPO concur with our assessment). The decision is essentially one of business options and cost-benefit ratios. If green spacing is selected, a green spacing or preservation plan will be required. If data recovery is the selected option, then a data recovery plan will be required.

### 38CH1623

This site was initially encountered during the investigation of Transect 7, with the discovery of a single surface about 40 feet east of Shovel Test 2. Subsequently, the site's boundaries were further refined by the identification of two positive shovel tests and an additional surface find (Figures 13 and 20).

The survey identified the central UTM coordinates as being E615800 N3638950 and the site is estimated to measure about 100 feet east-west by 100 feet north-south, or about 0.2 acre. All of the site is situated within the proposed development tract, apparently in an area of residential development on the edge of a pond.

The site is found on relatively flat topography at an elevation of about 20 feet AMSL. There is a very gradual slope to the north, where a small slough or wetland area is situated about 150 feet of the site.

Soils are classified as

Lakeland Series, and the site is situated on the northern edge of a narrow band of excessively well drained soils which extend east-west across the study tract. The typical soil profile is about 0.8 foot of dark brown sand (7.5YR3/2) overlying a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) sand subsoil. Evidence of plowing, such as remnant plow furrows, were found throughout the area and 1941 aerial photographs reveal that the site is situated at the north edge of a cultivated field which followed these well-drained soils.

The site is characterized by recent second growth, suggesting that cultivation ceased perhaps a decade ago. In fact, further east a portion of the field was found to still be under cultivation. Just off the site to the north, there is mixed pine and hardwood, dominated by several large live oaks. These trees probably marked the original edge of the field. To the south of the site there is also an open powerline corridor. Much of the immediate area exhibited good ground visibility with bear sand and interspersed grass.

As mentioned, the site was bisected by Transect 7. Eleven shovel tests were excavated at the site in order to determine boundaries, collect

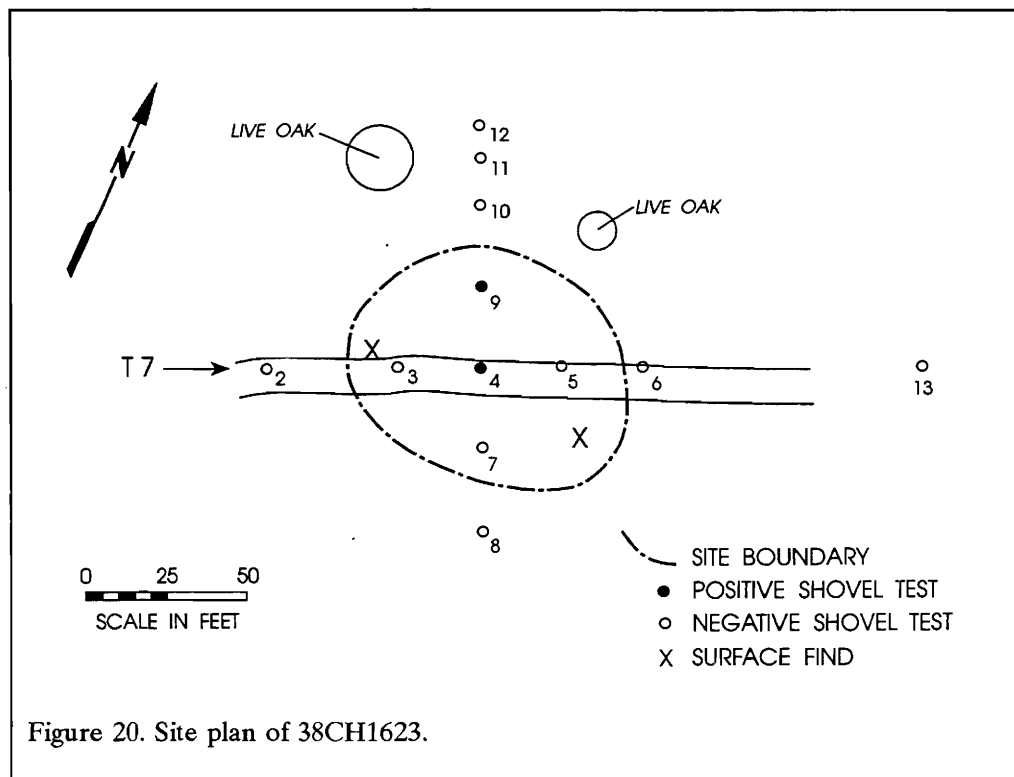


Figure 20. Site plan of 38CH1623.

artifacts for temporal assessment, and evaluate site integrity. Only two of these shovel tests produced artifacts and only five of the tests were placed within the boundaries of the site. These boundaries (Figure 20) are based both on positive shovel tests and also on the presence of surface material.

Shovel Tests 4 and 9 each produced a single small (i.e., under 1-inch in diameter) prehistoric sherd. In addition, two small sherds were found as surface materials. Only one of these sherds can be tentatively identified, with the remnant surface treatment and paste suggesting Deptford Check Stamped ware. The others are suggestive of Middle Woodland pottery, but cannot be positively identified.

Although experience suggests that if the site area were plowed both the size and density of the site would increase, it nevertheless is a rather ephemeral scatter. There is no suggestion of intact subsurface features or a broad range of cultural material. It is unlikely that the site possesses the data sets necessary to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past. Consequently, the site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

### 38CH1624

This site was initially encountered during the investigation of Transect 16, with the discovery of two positive shovel tests immediately adjacent to the Charleston National Golf Course. Only a very minimal amount of testing was conducted at this site since it was found to be outside the project tract, situated entirely on the Charleston National property. It is briefly discussed in this report since the proposed development by Centex Homes will abut the golf course and there is some potential that the site may be affected. This site was not identified during the Charleston

National survey (Brockington et al. 1987), perhaps because of its size.

The survey identified the central UTM coordinates as being E615820 N3638330. Since the boundaries have not been carefully established and much of site was perhaps damaged by the golf course construction, the size of 38CH1624 is not known. That portion identified in this study, however, does not appear to measure more than about 100 feet in diameter (Figures 13 and 21).

Site topography is equally difficult to reconstruct, given the extensive disturbance to the west by the golf course. The remaining portion, however, appears to be situated on a relatively level area with a gentle slope to the north, toward a marsh slough about 75 feet distant, and toward the east, as the land gradually slopes toward Stratton Road. The site elevation is about 10 feet AMSL.

Soils are classified as Chipley Series. While the site itself is situated on relatively well drained soils, noticeably wetter and reduced soils are found only 50 feet to the north. In the immediate area of the site the soils were found to consist of about 0.7 foot of very dark gray (10YR3/1) sand overlying a yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) sand subsoil. No evidence of plowing was encountered, but the small site area and nearby disturbance may have precluded, or masked, any such evidence.

The site occurs in the rough associated with the golf course. Consequently, the vegetation is artificial — bush hogging and selective cutting

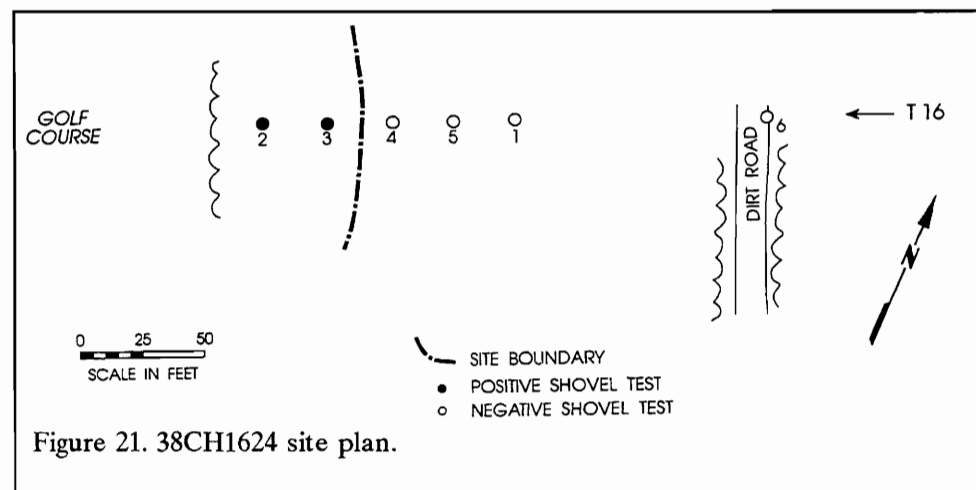


Figure 21. 38CH1624 site plan.

have created a modified scrub understory with few overstory trees. Outside the site, where there is less recent intrusion, a pine and mixed hardwood forest is present. Surface visibility in the site area is moderate, with bear patches of loamy sand being exposed. In spite of this, only one sherd was found on the surface.

The site was bisected by Transect 16. Shovel Test 1, which was negative, was excavated 100 feet west of Stratton Road, about mid-way between the dirt road and the golf course. Shovel Test 2, 100 feet to the west, and immediately adjacent to the course, produced three small prehistoric sherds. Since it was impossible to expand the grid to the west without excavating on the golf course, Shovel Test 3 was placed 25 feet to the east, toward Stratton Road. This shovel test produced one small prehistoric sherd. Shovel Test 4, an additional 25 feet to the east, produced only one small fragment of brick. Shovel Test 5, 25 feet further to the east (and 25 feet west of Shovel Test 1) failed to produce any material. Excavations were not continued to the north because of the proximity of the slough. It was decided not to expand the grid to the south since the site appeared to be entirely off the Centex Homes property.

All of the sherds recovered are under one inch in diameter. It appears that all are consistent with Middle Woodland materials, exhibiting plain or worn surfaces and coarse sand paste.

Like 38CH1623, it is probable that plowing the immediate area might increase the collection. Nevertheless, the site is ephemeral and seems to lack integrity. Its proximity to 38CH927 may suggest downslope erosion or movement of material, or possibly even an extension of the site toward the slough. With the development of the Charleston National Golf Course it is now difficult to reconstruct this site or its relationship with 38CH927.

There is no suggestion of intact subsurface features or a broad range of cultural material. It is unlikely that the site possesses the data sets necessary to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the past. Consequently, the site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

## CONCLUSIONS

### Cultural Resources Evaluation

The primary goals of this study were to identify and assess cultural resources which might be present on the 99 acre Centex Homes development of Stratton Place.

An initial phase of the study was an overview of historic resources. This work found that the parcel represented an important portion of a plantation settlement dating at least to the first decade or so of the nineteenth century. Agricultural activities on the parcel continued at least to the mid-twentieth century.

Associated with this overview of potential resources, the files of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology were examined. Considerable research had been conducted on the large development parcel, known as the Charleston National Golf Course, immediately to the west of the Centex Homes tract (Brockington et al. 1987). Several archaeological sites adjacent to the property had been identified. Several sites were recorded for the southern half of Stratton Plantation. No archaeological sites, however, were recorded on the survey tract prior to this study.

An inquiry was also made to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, in compliance with their *Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Investigations in South Carolina*. The purpose of this was to determine whether there were any previous architectural or historical surveys for the project area, or if there were any National Register sites recorded for the tract. Since 38CH927 was known to be immediately adjacent to the Centex Project and since the site was thought to have been determined eligible by the State Historic Preservation Office, our inquiry also requested information on an Memorandum of Agreement concerning this site. Unfortunately, no response was received to either inquiry.

An archaeological field investigation was conducted which included the excavation of 219 shovel tests on 17 transects. As a result of this study four archaeological sites were identified.

Site 38CH927, previously recorded from the Charleston National project, was found to extend eastward onto the study tract. The portion of the site on the study tract represents a large and significant segment of the early nineteenth century Jervey Plantation. This site extends onto the Charleston National property and southward onto the remainder of the Stratton tract. This site has been previously recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places and there is reason to believe that the State Historic Preservation Office concurred in this assessment. The current study only serves to further reinforce that assessment. 38CH927 is a significant site capable of addressing a broad range of research questions. The site should be either green spaced or subjected to data recovery.

Site 38CH928, previously found on the edge of the study tract, could not be relocated during this study. Since it was a very small site, it was probably totally collected during the initial survey (Brockington et al. 1987). Alternatively, it may have been destroyed by the construction of the Charleston National Golf Course.

Site 38CH1622, found in the northwest corner of the parcel, is a very well preserved domestic homestead dating from the late nineteenth and/or early twentieth century. The site is documented on several maps spanning the period from about 1918 through the mid-1940s, but appears to have been abandoned by 1948. While perhaps representing a tenant settlement, additional historical and archaeological research are necessary to confirm this assessment. Regardless, the site has the ability to address a broad range of significant research questions and is recommended eligible for inclusion on the

National Register of Historic Places. The site should be either green spaced or subjected to data recovery.

Site 38CH1623, found on the north central third of the tract, represents a small and diffuse scatter of prehistoric material. The collection is small and the site has been plowed. There is no evidence of subsurface features and site integrity is questioned. The site is recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register and no additional work appears necessary.

Site 38CH1624, found on the west edge of the southern third of the parcel, represents another small, ephemeral prehistoric site. It appears to have been damaged by the construction of the Charleston National Golf Course and does not appear to extend onto the Centex Homes property. Nevertheless, because of its proximity it is included in this study. The absence of clear integrity, coupled with the very scarce data sets, suggest that this site is not eligible for inclusion on the National Register. We recommend no additional investigation at the site.

Finally, a site was reported for the study area by William Koob, but could not be identified during this study. The reported site produced pottery and was plowed at the time of collection. Today, as a wooded tract, the exact location of this site is uncertain. Shovel testing failed to identify its location.

All four identified sites should be avoided by all ground disturbing activities until assessed by the lead federal or state agency and the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. In addition, there is always the possibility of unidentified sites being uncovered during construction activities. Should any concentrations of artifacts or other cultural materials be found, either Chicora Foundation or the South Carolina Department of Archives and History should be immediately notified.

For those sites found eligible for inclusion on the National Register, Centex may either propose green spacing or data recovery at their option. Green spacing will involve a green spacing plan which establishes how the sites will be preserved in perpetuity. Data recovery will involve

excavations to recover the significant data.

### Secondary Goals

The secondary goals were to examine the relationship between site location, soil type, and topography, expanding the previous work by Brooks and Scurry (1978) and Scurry and Brooks (1980) in the Charleston area. With the low density of archaeological remains relatively little can be added to their previous work.

Three of the four sites (75%) were found on Chipley soils, which account for just under 12% of the soils on the tract. One site was recovered on Lakeland soils, which also account for just under 12% of the soil. Consequently, 100% of the sites occur on less than a quarter of the soils. While the sample is small, there appears to be a strong preference to Chipley and Lakeland soils. These soils were found to be associated with either well drained interior plains or with sandy ridges running through the tract. Soil profiles are well developed, typically exhibiting a brown A or Ap horizon over a yellow C horizon. Drainage, at least locally, is good.

Of course, it may be more appropriate to explain this distribution in the context of there being a very strong negative correlation between the very poorly drained Rutlege, Scranton, Wadmalaw, and Yorges soils and habitation. These soils not only exhibit poor drainage, but were found in this survey to have reduced profiles, exhibit wet soil or even standing water, and to be uniformly low.

There seems to be increasingly convincing evidence that archaeological sites are rarely associated (under very special circumstances) with these soil series. This suggests that it may be appropriate for archaeological investigations to exclude such soils from detailed investigations — even survey at 200 foot intervals may be an inappropriate use of limited funding.

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